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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2014

BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR
HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE SINCE 1902!
See our feature on Page 21

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
SEE PAGES 16 TO 18

'GATEWAY TO COWBRIDGE' ARGUMENT WINS THE DAY

Primrose Hill housing plan is turned down

by PHILIP IRWIN

CAMPAIGNERS in Cowbridge who opposed plans to build 79 homes at Primrose Hill are "delighted" – after a Welsh Government planning inspector dismissed an appeal by the developers.

After a four-day public inquiry in September, the inspector has ruled against United Welsh Housing Association and Charles Church Developments, who had proposed that the housing would be 60 per cent 'affordable', and 40 per cent 'open market'.

In a detailed judgement, it became clear that the inspector had placed great weight on the visual appearance of the development.

In fact, the campaign group, who chose the name 'Gateway to Cowbridge', must have been delighted when the inspector used that phrase himself when talking about his reasons for refusal.

Richard Mann, Director of Development at United Welsh, said: "We are very disappointed that our application to build much-needed affordable homes at Primrose Hill in Cowbridge has been rejected.

"When we originally submitted our plans to the Vale Council, there were no objections from their internal consultees.

"It is a real shame that we won't be able to build excellent quality affordable homes for the people of Cowbridge and the surrounding area."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I am pleased that the opinions of the residents of Cowbridge have been taken into account in regard to housing developments.

"It is down to the coordinated efforts of the local group in leading the campaign against excessive housing developments in the town. This decision reflects the views of the community, and I am pleased to see that common sense has prevailed. From the outset of this proposal, I wanted to ensure the feelings of those affected were reflected, and I am delighted that the local community has been listened to on such an important issue."

The inspector, Clive Nield, identified four issues in the case.

1/ The effect on the character and appearance of the area, particularly bearing in mind its location outside the settlement boundary and in a Special Landscape Area.

2/ Whether or not it would be premature to grant permission in the light of the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP).

3/ Whether or not the development would overload the waste water treatment works.

4/ The benefits of the scheme in terms of the provision of housing, especially affordable housing, in the light of an alleged shortage of available housing land in the area.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Looking back on History Society

FLASHBACK, ABOVE: Rev. Norman Williams and wife Betty, co-founder of Cowbridge Local History Society, and town Mayor. The photo was taken in the summer of 1975 at the Cowbridge Show at Penlline Castle.
(SEE SPECIAL ARTICLE ON PAGE 7)

Well, one postal service is still serving Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE may still be without a post office, but one postal service will be going strong during the festive period.

This year, with support from Watts and Morgan, the Cowbridge Scout Post is hoping to deliver more letters than ever – with the cost (25p) staying the same as last year.

Of that 25p, 5p goes to cover admin costs, and the remaining 20p stays with the Cowbridge Scout Group to help with the costs involved in keeping 80 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers (boys and girls) busy every week.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

NHS pay versus MPs' expenses

IN last week's GEM came another attack on the Welsh NHS by our local MP; this Conservative-led Coalition government seem to have only one defence for the mess they are making of running the NHS in England – and that's to attack the Welsh NHS.

In his article, Mr Cairns writes he is criticising the politicians (Welsh Labour) and the bureaucrats – not the committed, hard-working doctors, nurses and support staff.

Here, a minister in the Government praises the hard work and dedication of NHS staff but seems happy to deny them a measly one per cent pay rise recommended by an independent pay review body.

This would cost £450 million a year. Yet 650 MPs of all parties managed to claim £103 million in expenses in one year,.

They will also get a 10 per cent pay rise to top up the £1,250 a week they already get.

They say they will be forced to take this rise and cannot refuse it, as it was recommended by an independent pay review body!

G Smith,
Llantwit Major.

'Who damaged my parked car?'

I PARKED my car in Waitrose car park prior to shopping there on Thursday, October 23 and also on Saturday, October 25.

Which date is applicable is irrelevant as the culprit concerned will know when it was.

As a mostly lone driver, I rarely use the nearside front door of the car, as I garage it as soon as I get home and empty the boot from there.

However, on October 27, I went to the garage to get some tools and glanced at my car (which is my pride and joy and probably the only one I shall ever have).

I was shocked and upset to see horrible and muddy grazing on the front wing.

I cleaned the dirt off, which improved the look somewhat, but the wing is pulled away from the body, which obviously needs expert attention.

I can't believe someone can quite happily damage someone else's car and drive away without reporting an accident.

Carol Hollings,
Cowbridge.

INCONSIDERATE CAR PARKING

HAVING tried to park in Barry Library car park on numerous occasions, at all times of the day over the last year, I have witnessed the leaving of cars down the centre of the car park.

This is totally inconsiderate and dangerous, due to drivers returning and getting into heated rows with each other, twice almost developing into fights.

I have contacted the council, but still nothing has been done to solve this issue. Many more people must have seen this happen and I hope these parking problems can be solved.

Mark Edwards,
Barry.

WE welcome your news, views and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

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HOUSING: moment of truth for Cowbridge?

COWBRIDGE is fast approaching a crucial point in its long history. Last week every household in the town and surrounding area received a leaflet 'Land at North West Cowbridge' from the UK developer Commercial Estates Group (CEG).

The leaflet sets out CEG's vision for building 390 new homes on the Darren Farm site, with comforting images of the 'character of Cowbridge'.

What the leaflet leaves out is any reference to the fact that this developer is intending to put in an application for the Darren Farm site before the Welsh Government inspector is able to consider the future of Cowbridge as part of the 2015-16 year-long inquiry into the Vale of Glamorgan Council's LDP.

Let's be clear what is at stake for the development of Cowbridge.

If the LDP inspector is able to examine all the council's proposals for 390 houses at Darren Farm, 130 houses on the St Athan Road and 20 houses on the site of Cowbridge Comprehensive School's old sixth form block, then the town gets the immense benefit of an independent quasi-judicial assessment by a professional Welsh Government inspector of what constitutes overall proportionate, sustainable new housing development for the town.

If, on the other hand, CEG jumps the gun with a premature planning application to the Vale Council and succeeds, then Cowbridge has lost the unique opportunity of having its overall needs properly assessed.

It has to be pointed out that the Vale Council has already pre-empted the LDP inspector's inquiry by using planning loopholes to approve a series of premature planning applications for LDP sites in the rural Vale villages, with another two LDP sites pending in Colwinston and Wick. Darren Farm is another LDP site and Cowbridge is an integral part of the rural Vale.

Furthermore, it is well known that this council has been very reluctant to refuse any of these recent applications for LDP sites, because it fears losing appeals by developers.

This is potentially the moment when the character of this historic town is irreparably damaged. This is the moment for leadership from locally elected representatives, especially the Cowbridge ward county councillors, Alun Cairns MP and AMs Jane Hutt and Andrew RT Davies. Where are they at such a critical time for the town?

If CEG is so confident of its case for Darren Farm and it really places such a high store on the character of Cowbridge, then it should respect the right of every resident in the Cowbridge area to whom it sent a leaflet to have the future of this jewel in the Welsh crown set by the independent LDP inspector, and not by the present Vale Council.

Paul Jeremy,
Ystradowen.

'Airbrushed version of a new Cowbridge?'

NOW that the Primrose Hill Appeal has been rejected, we should expect more pressure for other developments to proceed.

Cowbridge residents should have received an invitation from Beattie Communications to an exhibition to promote the Darren Farm development.

This will be held at Cowbridge Town Hall on November 13 between 4pm and 8pm and at Llandow Village Hall on November 14 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

You will be presented with an idealised and airbrushed version of New Cowbridge with all of the negative elements discreetly swept under the carpet.

I think it will be presented as *fait accompli,* with the first houses due to be completed by 2016, an unlikely event, since the LDP has yet to be decided and no planning application has been submitted.

Much will be made of the improvement to traffic flow, due to the new link road to the bypass, but there will be no mention of the extra traffic in Cowbridge due to the schools being at the other end of the town – not to mention shopping trips.

There is mention of a school in the development, but given the restraints on the education budget, who is going to run it?

I do urge local people to visit the exhibition and see for themselves what the impact on the town will be and imagine the vista to the west if the plan goes ahead.

The Wales Planning Bill is also progressing and this looks as if it will take all power on planning for major developments to the Assembly. This means that local people will have even less say on what happens in their area then they do now.

Alec Trousdell,
Llanblethian.

'Cowbridge faces over-development'

Heaven help the people of Cowbridge if land development to the north-west of the town is given the go-ahead.

A total of 390 houses, could mean 1,500 to 1,800 more people and 700 cars.

The ease of booking appointments with the local doctor is likely to become a nightmare – the traffic through Cowbridge a major problem with parking, and another possible 700 schoolchildren.

C Wilkins,
Welsh St Donats.

Be safe when the lightning strikes

I write with regard to RP Sheppard's letter in The GEM on October 30, concerning lightning strike damage to customers' telephone equipment.

I would point out that in the 1950s and 1960s, it was the practice of Post Office Telephones, the forerunner of BT, to fit quick-blow fuses into telephone circuits within certain subscribers' premises that were fed by overhead telephone lines, so as to provide protection against damage from lightning strike.

It seems this practice was discontinued because lightning strikes upon overhead telephone lines were considered to be rare.

Of course, within the telephone exchanges, each circuit is protected by quick blow fuses.

During my time as an electrician and telecommunications technician, whenever I lived in a house fed by an overhead telephone line, I would insert into the circuit quick-blow fuses fitted into a small box plugged in series between the BT socket and telephone.

Never mind lightning strike damage to the phone, I wasn't prepared to risk serious injury while talking on the phone during a thunderstorm!

Anthony Bright,
Penarth.

'Put effort into Barry link roads'

I NOTED in the latest 'Barry Chronicle', Alun Cairns' disappointment in being let down over regeneration money.

He states that funds have been sent to Bridgend, Newport and Port Talbot, but whose job is it to fight for Barry town and its people? The biggest project that seems to be going on is an ASDA, and link road to the island.

How about putting some effort into the link roads into Barry from Cardiff?

In the 1880s, David Davies built this town from nothing. He had vision. Today, there is a motorway, railway, a labour force and there must be 400 acres of land doing nothing.

More than what the other three towns mentioned have, we have an airport. Mr Davies must turn in his grave at what is going on today.

Murray Crichton,
Barry.

'WATCH OUT FOR THESE SCAMS'

I AM writing to tell people about a life insurance 'scam.' My wife and I took out life insurance 20 years ago and after reaching 85, it stopped.

So we asked for the money owed – between the both of us, we were conned for £1,700.

I would like to warn people about another insurance 'rip-off'.

After reaching 60, I would suggest a funeral plan, not insurance.

I would hate to think what hospital insurance costs would be if we lose the NHS, so be careful where you put your cross next year.

Bill Lang,
Barry.

Appeal to old shipmates...

I AM very confident, that readers of The GEM will again respond to this appeal.

The Royal Naval Electrical Branch Association was formed to seek out those who served in the Royal Navy dealing with any electrical, radio, radar or computer instllations on Royal Navy ships or shore establishments, and reunite them with their old shipmates.

The association has just had a fantastic reunion and the next one is now being organised.

Go to the Association website, *www.rneba.org.uk*, to see photos of past reunions and download an application form.

Mike Crowe,
Royal Naval Electrical Branch Association,
7 Heath Road,
Sandown, Isle of Wight
PO36 8PG

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL NOVEMBER 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
06 Thur	05.25	10.1	17.50	10.2
07 Fri	06.13	10.3	18.36	10.3
08 Sat	06.56	10.2	19.15	10.1
09 Sun	07.35	9.9	19.56	9.8
10 Mon	08.14	9.7	20.33	9.6
11 Tues	08.52	9.5	21.11	9.0
12 Wed	09.27	8.9	21.51	8.5
13 Thur	10.08	8.4	22.37	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

OLD HALL GARDENS VOLUNTEERS MEET KINDRED SPIRITS...

COWBRIDGE Charter Trust's Old Hall Gardens Work Party is not all work and no play, as they proved when they left their trowels and pruners behind and boarded the community Green Links bus for an outing to Sandham Chapel in Burghclere, Hampshire.

Outside Sandham Chapel with organiser trustee Linda Osborn and her husband (right).

The chapel, modelled on Giotto's Arena Chapel in Padua, was designed by the artist Sir Stanley Spencer to house paintings commissioned by the Behrend family in memory of Mrs Behrend's brother, Henry Sandham, who died in 1919 in the Macedonian campaign during World War One.

Sir Stanley had served with the field ambulances in Macedonia and these paintings had in fact been conceived by him while on active service.

Landscapes depicting military camps occupy the upper segments of the chapel walls and below are typical scenes of a soldier's life in an English or Macedonian camp or, as so often, in hospital.

The work party was especially privileged to have as their guide Shirin Spencer, the artist's daughter, and now a keen volunteer gardener in Old Hall Gardens.

Shirin pointed out that her father, by choice, spent the entire war as a private, and these scenes depict soldiering in the lower ranks, but under the aspect of eternity, mundane tasks as ritual.

Unheroic? No – just understated and deceptively simple. These great works are charged with spiritual significance and all gather meaning from the huge mural on the end wall showing the resurrection of soldiers.

Shirin was asked if she admired her father's work at the time. Her answer was not then – she just wanted him to come down off the scaffolding and play with her!

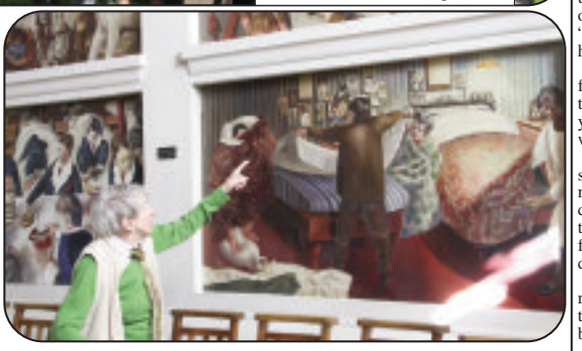
Sandham Chapel is now in the care of the National Trust. There is an excellent curator and most welcoming pub across the road.

Behind the chapel is a very attractive garden, newly designed to accompany this year's restoration of the chapel.

Like Cowbridge Old Hall, this is in the care of volunteers, so the Charter Trust Work Party was very pleased to be shown around by a gardener from the local group who revealed they had received a number of plants as donations after the Chelsea Flower Show.

Both Sir Stanley Spencer and his younger brother, Gilbert Spencer, were renowned artists with pictures in the Tate and other major galleries. There is also an exhibition at the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

This gallery, which is dedicated to his work, opened in 1962, three years after the artist's death and is located in the village where he grew up. He was so devoted to his village that he was known as 'Cookham' by his fellow students at the Slade.



Shirin Spencer showing the pinups on the wall above the sick soldier's bed, which are tiny family portraits.

Sir Spencer's daughter, Shirin Spencer, pointing out details to the Cowbridge Charter Trust's volunteers.

The current show at the Cookham Gallery (until March 2015) is entitled 'Paradise Regained: Spencer in the Aftermath of the First World War' and was timed to coincide with the 2014 Centenary of the Great War.

On display are key paintings from the period through which the artist sought to regain the vision he feared lost as a result of the trauma of war.

Also exhibited are works and supplementary material about Spencer's wartime experiences in Macedonia and the planning of the Burghclere Chapel.

The trip was deemed a great success by the volunteers who are already planning next year's venture during their Thursday morning coffee breaks.

Cowbridge Charter Trust offers a warm welcome to volunteers. To get in touch, visit our website www.cowbridgechartertrust.co.uk or email cctrust@hotmail.co.uk

HARRY HAILES

Churches' quiz night

CHURCHES Together in Cowbridge and district is holding a quiz night with pasty and pudding on Friday, November 7, 6.30pm for 7pm in the Maendy Room at United Free Church, 21, Westgate.

Teams should be up to six and can be made up on the night (£5 per person).

Tickets are available from the churches or by contacting 01446 772330 or hevtherev@googlemail.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Blot on the landscape

I REFER to the recent installation of a 70-metre high wind turbine on St Mary Hill.

A friend who is living in close proximity to this unsightly contraption, is yet to experience the noise which may come from it during high winds.

The east of Cowbridge was the only place where one could not see the turbine, due to the high point of Penllyne Castle.

My sympathy is with those who will surely be affected by this monstrosity.

Young at Heart club

TODAY, Thursday, November 6, club members will travel the short distance to a local garden center, before continuing to St Brides Major for lunch.

Everyone at the club is hopeful that club stalwart Gwen David will be well enough to join her friends.

Everyone at the club is sending good wishes to another club stalwart, Norma Newman, who unfortunately has been unable to attend meetings due to her poor health.

Praise our Welsh NHS!

DURING the past weeks, there have been various complaints against the service afforded to patients at the hospital.

As a 91-year-old lady with a few problems, I have always been treated with kindness and professionalism by nurses, doctors and consultants.

Those who complain over sometimes trivial problems, should be thankful we still have our National Health Service. We are no doubt the envy of the world.

'If it's too good to be true... it's a scam'

COWBRIDGE Rotary had a fascinating talk from Detective Sergeant Ashley Jones from Bridgewater on Monday night.

Det Sgt Jones and president Michael MacPhail.

It was about the fact we're all getting older and thieves are getting smarter.

There are now so many new ways to trick people out of their savings that it's quite a job keeping up with the latest scams.

There's the telephone call when an anonymous person, usually thousands of miles away, offers to fix that "problem" you've been having on your computer.

Or the chance to claim for "compensation" for the "accident" that you've just had and which wasn't your fault.

Or the email from somewhere in Africa that needs a bank account to deposit hundreds of thousands of pounds from someone who's just died of a heart attack.

They promise great rewards, but really they're just after your banking details so that they can empty your bank account.

And they will do it, given half a chance.

Even a well-known trick like distraction burglary can often catch out the careful householder, and leave them distraught and very shocked, knowing that they've been robbed because they were taken in by the simplest of tricks.

To this end, DSgt Jones and his senior citizen liaison team have launched a magazine, 'Senior Siren', which provides a good read as well as lots of advice about what you should be aware of today.

There's advice on crime prevention and victim support as well. His concluding words told of a woman near Bristol who was duped by a slick-talking rogue over the phone into handing over £45,000 in cash to him, believing she was helping a police officer investigating a money laundering scheme at a nearby bank.

Unsurprisingly, neither the robber nor the money have been seen since. So be on your guard.

Remember: "If it seems too good to be true, it usually is...

"It's a scam!"

ANDY BANKS

Cowbridge business's NSPCC charity night

ANNIE SLOAN stockists in Cowbridge are holding a special late night event on Friday, November 21, from 6pm to 10pm at Happy Days Vintage Homestore, Church Street, Cowbridge, to help raise £25,000 for the NSPCC.

Happy Days is inviting shoppers from south Wales to enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies while watching wonderfully creative painters provide demonstrations, hints and tips on how to create unique pieces of painted furniture using Annie Sloan's decorative paint, Chalk Paint™.

A raffle is being held, with the first prize a large hamper full of Annie Sloan goodies – and just to make sure you enjoy the evening even more, there will be 10 per cent off everything in store. The event is free to the public and there will be lots on this evening to encourage visitors to help raise vital funds for the NSPCC.

Happy Days is one of over 250 Annie Sloan stockists across the UK who have joined forces in a bid to help raise £25,000 for the NSPCC, UK's leading children's charity specialising in child protection.

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COWBRIDGE MALE VOICE CHOIR PERFORMS AT NEWPORT CATHEDRAL

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir in full voice at Newport Cathedral.

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir was invited to take part in a joint concert with Rogerstone Band in Newport Cathedral on Saturday, October 25.

This brass band has an impressive history and pedigree as it was formed in 1948 and over the years has won many prizes in national and European competitions.

In the first half of the concert the band started off with four pieces including 'I'd Rather Have Jesus' with a fabulous cornet solo from Owen Harries.

The choir then took to the stage, albeit in a rather cramped formation, behind the band.

The bottom bass section was in very close proximity to the percussionist who banged away at his three timpani and a big bass drum.

When the interval came, several of the members of the section were looking quite shell-shocked!

The choir started off the second half of the concert to be followed by another four pieces from the band.

The highlight of this section was a magnificent solo from our favourite percussionist who played 'The Joyful Skeleton' on his xylophone at lightning speed, while dressed in a skeleton costume – very seasonal with Hallowe'en just around the corner!

The audience in the packed cathedral seemed to thoroughly enjoy the mixture of brass band and choral singing and we look forward to a 'return match' with the band in the future.

TC

The skeleton shows how 'Joyful' he is!

History society presents iconic anti-war film

AS part of its contribution to commemorating the outbreak of the First World War, Cowbridge History Society (in conjunction with Big Screen) will be showing the classic musical film *Oh! What a Lovely War* (Cert A) on Wednesday, November 12 at 7pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Made in 1969 with a cast of the 'greats' of British film and theatre, this was the first full-length film by the late Richard Attenborough.

It is based on Joan Littlewood's stage play of the same name. In a series of surreal settings, including Brighton Pier, the film follows the fortunes of an archetypal British family, the Smiths, who enter the pier where General Haig (played by John Mills) is selling tickets.

As the war unfolds, all the principal politicians and soldiers are encountered, not as history strictly portrayed them, but as caricatures.

These include: Jack Hawkins as Emperor Franz Josef I; Kenneth More as Kaiser Wilhelm II; Laurence Olivier as Field Marshal Sir John French; and Ralph Richardson as Sir Edward Grey.

In one of the most dramatic songs, the young Maggie Smith as a music hall star entices the young men to take the King's shilling.

The familiar tunes from the period sadly recall Alan Clark's famous phrase, describing the British Army of the time as 'lions led by donkeys'.

The film will be introduced with a brief history of the origins of the war.

Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Katie Fforde set to visit book festival

THE final event of 2014 for the Cowbridge Book festival will be an intimate conversation between good friends, award-winning author Katie Fforde, début novelist Jo Thomas and local BBC broadcaster Lucy Owen.

Author Jo Thomas.

Recognised for her heart-warming, uplifting and beautifully written stories about the twists and turns of everyday life, Katie Fforde's latest book, *The Perfect Match,* will not disappoint her many fans. A wonderfully romantic novel, it is the perfect escapist book.

Jo Thomas' debut novel *The Oystercatcher* has been described as heart-warming and 'un-put-downable'! It was a runaway best seller e-book and although it is only just becoming available in paperback, it is predicted to be a best seller.

Katie, who is consistently a top five Sunday Times best selling writer, offers her support to new writers through the Katie Fforde Bursary and it is through this scheme that she has befriended and become mentor to local novelist Jo Thomas. These two talented and lively ladies will discuss their books and talk about their very different experiences under the skilled guidance of Lucy Owen.

This promises to be a feel good, fun evening – Katie and Jo are looking forward to talking about their experiences and sharing their thoughts with Lucy Owen. It will be presented at Cowbridge United Free Church on Wednesday, November 12 at 7.30pm.

All proceeds from festival events are donated to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales. Details of all events can be found on the Festival Website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk.

Tickets are available online via the festival website; TicketlineUK; from David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) High Street, Cowbridge; or Nicklebys' Book Shop, Pound Field, Llantwit Major.

SRC

Planning application turned down

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

It became clear that he was attaching great weight to the first issue, saying in his judgement "... the appeal site would become part of the urban area, clearly visible on rising land and with an access road providing views of the development as a whole as one approaches the town.

"The new edge of the settlement would be seen much earlier than at present and quite different in character from the present settlement edge."

He went on to say: "Whatever landscaping mitigation measures were employed, the development would still appear as a modern housing estate."

He continued: "I conclude that, although effects on the wider Special Landscape Area would be minimal, the harm to the character of the immediate area would be substantial and unacceptably harmful to the setting of the ancient town of Cowbridge."

However, when it came to the other three reasons, the inspector turned two and three down, and was more equivocal about the fourth.

The second argument, that everything should be put on hold until the new LDP is passed, was rejected by the inspector on the grounds that 79 houses were not a large enough total to have a "significant impact" on the LDP.

The third, that the sewage system would be overloaded, was resolved to his satisfaction after the developers agreed to pay section 106 money to improve the capacity of the local system.

The fourth point, the need for affordable housing in Cowbridge, involved a complex argument about how that need is measured.

However, the inspector said: "In conclusion, there is clearly a need for housing in the county and, more specifically, in Cowbridge itself.

"That need is even more pressing for affordable housing."

Dr Chris Pearce, of the Cowbridge Residents' Group, said:

"It is good news that the inspector has placed such a high value on the landscape, setting and historic character of the town.

"I congratulate the Primrose Hill residents on the quality of their campaign."

SCOUTS POST IN OPERATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The last posting date is December 8, and cards will be delivered over two weekends, December 13/14 and December 20/21. No cars will be delivered before December 12.

Anyone posting letters in Cowbridge can have them delivered to a large number of areas, including Llantwit Major, Penarth, Barry, St Athan, most Vale villages, and all districts of Cardiff.

There are a number of nearby areas where cards cannot be delivered, including Bridgend, St Bride's Major and Pencoed.

A full list of 'yes' and 'no' areas is available from the outlets that sell Scout post stamps, which are now available.

In Cowbridge these are Davies' the newsagents; Arthur John' the Charity Card Shop; the Library; and David Barnes dry cleaners.

Organiser David Weber can also supply stamps and, if anyone needs any further information, he can be contacted on 01446 773263.

CHURCH'S SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

ON Sunday, November 16 at 5pm, a Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

This is a service open to all who wish to remember and give thanks for all those family members and friends who have departed this life in recent times, or many years ago.

During the service there will be an opportunity to light a personal commemoration candle.

Father Edward Dowland-Owen

Rotary helps in the battle to beat polio

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club's display for 'End Polio Now' day outside Caffè Nero in October was enlivened by a visit from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, MP.

A Rotary spokesman said: "Polio is really just down to 100 or so cases now globally and we are just that little gap away from wiping it out completely. Mr Cairns showed a keen grasp of the problems, and often serious dangers, now facing health workers in Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the last three countries where the disease still exists, as they attempt to inoculate and protect peoples in these frequently remote and difficult areas.

"Rotary clubs all over the world made a special effort to highlight some of these problems as they came together to raise awareness of how close we are to achieving the aim of confining the disease to history." **AB**

£589 for Macmillan

MANY thanks to everyone who attended the Macmillan coffee morning at my house in Cowbridge recently – the total raised was a wonderful £589.25!

All the cakes were made by myself, and other creations can be seen at www.CreativeCakeKitchen.com.

Two Christmas cakes were sold for Macmillan at the coffee morning, so two people are getting nearer to being ready for Christmas!

Many thanks to everyone who came, helped, donated and guessed the number of hundreds and thousands. Macmillan can provide more support for those in need because of you.

Sue Freeland, Cowbridge.

Festive air at the Friendship Club

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Friendship Club again showed their talents at the October meeting when they were busy making their Christmas tree decorations in preparation for the Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival.

They were so intent on their work that there was just enough time to clear up and enjoy their afternoon tea with home made sandwiches and cakes. Next month, members will be entertained to a musical afternoon by Elizabeth Elliott on the keyboard.

We always have a variety of activities with many craft days and speakers, which we hope caters for everyone's taste.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, so if you (or someone you know) would like to know more about our Friendship Club, ring 01656 668446 to find out more.

PAT SMITH (Leader)

Art exhibition opening

ON November 13, at 7pm, Cowbridge Art Society's annual art exhibition opens at the Old Hall, when members' artwork will be judged and trophies presented by south Wales artist Howard Jones.

This exhibition (free entry) of a variety of artwork of different topics in different styles, and in varied media, mostly for sale, will continue up until December 5, available for viewing during Old Hall opening times.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm – 9pm and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

'GRABBING LIFE WITH BOTH HANDS!'

Barry woman's trek through Escambray Mountains in aid of Breast Cancer Care

LEFT: Elaine (left) and Sue are fully prepared for their Cuban challenge.

A woman from Barry who has recovered from a life-threatening disease, leaves for Cuba tomorrow (Friday, November 7), to undertake a mountain trek to raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Care.

by GEM REPORTER

Elaine Nicholas will be accompanied by her friend, Sue Youngman from Cardiff.

Elaine Nicholas told The GEM: "In the past, we both experienced getting the devastating news that we had breast cancer and having our lives changed forever.

"The treatment was tough, but we got through it and it made us stronger, more courageous and more compassionate to the pain of others.

"Looking back, both Sue and I genuinely believe that our experience has had a positive impact on our lives.

"We've been given a second chance and we're grabbing it with both hands.

"The trek is a celebration of our recovery and we are really excited to be going as it's been a dream for a couple of years."

Elaine and Sue, who met when they became Breast Cancer Care volunteers, have undertaken a training regime in recent weeks to give them the confidence to take on a mountain range in Cuba.

"We've done a lot of walking in the Brecon Beacons and the Wye Valley. A recent weekend away in the Brecon Beacons was challenging but enjoyable.

"We have been training really hard, walking between 19 kms and 22 kms most weekends, as well as trying to fit in time for fundraising.

"This is a huge challenge for us, both mentally and physically. We will be trekking for a distance of 73 kilometres over five days. It means walking between six and eight hours a day. We will be trekking from Havana to Trinidad through the Escambray Mountains.

"The terrain will be undulating and tough going. We will be bathing in waterfalls and sleeping in haciendas!

"We are both self-funding the trek which means all the money we raise will go 100 per cent to the charity.

"We have chosen to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care because their services were a great support to us when we were diagnosed.

"Breast Cancer Care is the only UK wide charity providing specialist support and expert information for anyone affected by breast cancer."

If you would like to sponsor the two ladies, please go to: www.justgiving.com/cubantrek

POLICE IN PLEA AFTER A RANDOM ATTACK ON PENSIONER

POLICE are appealing for information, after a 79-year-old pensioner was pushed to the ground by two men in an apparently unprovoked attack.

The assault occurred on the pathway between Ogmore By Sea and Southerndown between 6pm and 7pm on Saturday, October 11.

The elderly man received minor cuts and bruising to his face and knees.

PC Jason Young said: "This appears to be a random, unprovoked attack on an elderly gentleman which, fortunately, did not result in any serious injuries.

"We would like anyone who was in the area around the time of the incident to come forward with any information they may have".

CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone with information about the incident should call South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1400383454.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted, free and anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their website at: www.crimestoppers-uk.oreg/give-information.

THE DARREN FARM DEVELOPERS WILL MEET THE PUBLIC

DEVELOPERS aiming to build on Darren Farm have taken the title of an old Canned Heat hit – 'Let's Work Together' as their motto for a consultation exercise on the controversial proposal, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Commercial Estates Group (CEG) is holding two public consultation events next week to give information about the proposed development to the north-west of Cowbridge.

The site, which lies between the A48 bypass and Llantwit Major Road, is allocated in the Vale Council's deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) for 390 homes, a site for a new school, a new link road and green space.

The latest LDP, of course, has been delayed and is unlikely to be agreed until 2016. The developers argue that the town's future housing needs would be met on this one site.

Jon Allen from CEG explains: "We like to work with the local community to develop masterplans which respect and enhance the character of the area. Cowbridge is a unique place, which makes this process all the more important.

"The masterplanning work is progressing, and we are keen to take on board feedback from the local community.

"The public consultation event will be an opportunity for people to find out more about the proposals, chat with the development team and comment on the evolving masterplan which will set the guiding principles for the scheme".

The exhibition will be held on Wednesday, November 12, at Cowbridge Town Hall, 4pm – 8pm, and on Thursday, November 13, at Llandow Village Hall, 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

November 12 also marks the launch of the website *www.northwestcowbridge.co.uk*, where residents will be able to view the information and submit their feedback if they are unable to attend the exhibition.

The developers argue that the homes will enable young people in Cowbridge to get on the housing ladder, as well as providing attractive family homes and properties for the elderly.

New green space will protect the setting of St Brynach's Church and extensive open and green space and new walking and cycling routes will be provided for existing as well as new residents.

They also argue that the £49 million investment into Cowbridge would create 115 construction jobs as well as permanent jobs in the new school. New residents would ultimately bring an additional £7.4 million annual spend into the shops and facilities in the area, helping to boost the local economy.

(See page 2 letters for some local opinions on this subject).

PUBLIC EXHIBITION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT

You are invited to attend a public exhibition to view, discuss and comment on the emerging concepts for a development on land at North West Cowbridge.

The site is allocated in the deposit Local Development Plan for a mixed-use scheme to include 390 new homes, a site for a new school and a link road.

Designed to reflect the town's architectural heritage, it would provide characterful family, first time buyer and elderly properties with extensive new accessible green space.

The events will be held on:

- **Wednesday 12th November 2014 at Cowbridge Town Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7DD – drop in between 4pm and 8pm.**
- **Thursday 13th November 2014 at Llandow Village Hall, Llandow, CF71 7NT from 5:30pm until 7:30pm.**

From 12th November you will also be able to view and comment at **www.northwestcowbridge.co.uk** or call 08448 425270.

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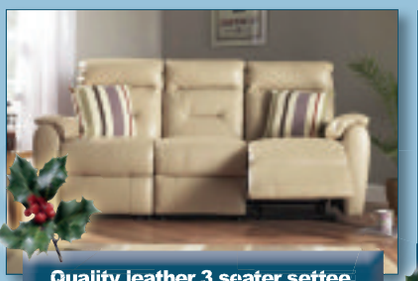

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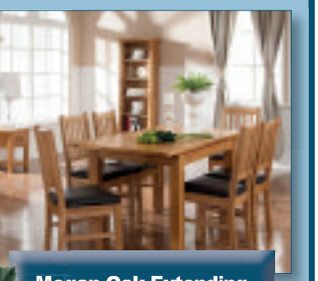

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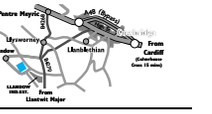

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FAMILY WELCOME HOME THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP

Amazing Ben is a living miracle!

by GEM REPORTER

ABOVE: Ben is back in Rhoose and Lisa said: "It's where he belongs, and we can start living our happy ever after."

A superfit Rhoose man who suffered a serious illness, endured a coma and ended up being paralysed down one side of his body, returned home last week after a courageous battle to regain his health.

Ben Stradling (37), who works on the Vale Council's recycling team and is a keen surfer had contracted a serious strain of meningitis.

On October 31, relieved friends and family gathered in the village to welcome him home.

His sister Anna told The GEM: "On Halloween, Ben was able to return to the flat he shares with his fiancee Lisa Turner following 10 months in hospital.

"Ben, who is normally seen running with the council recycling lorries, tragically caught a serious strain of meningitis on January 4 this year.

"He spent a month in an induced coma and has been in Rookwood hospital since March."

Ben had to undergo an intense rehabilitation programme because the illness triggered a stroke paralysing the left hand side of his body.

Anna said he had shown an indomitable spirit which included regaining his ability to walk so he cope when he returned home.

"Ben was never to be defeated and has always remained positive. His hard work has paid off. He has re-learned how to walk and completed his goal of walking up and down stairs so he could return to his flat.

"His next goal is to get fitter and stronger with the ultimate aim of returning to work. He also wants to be able to get back to surfing.

"Ben is a living miracle and an inspiration to other people on how they should never give up."

Ben's family and friends were thrilled to see him back home and had even put up a 'Welcome Home' banner at the entrance to the flats.

Lisa said: "It has been a tough 10 months, but he's home now where he belongs, and we can now start living our happy ever after."

Family and friends were thrilled to see Ben back home in Rhoose and had even put up a 'Welcome Home' banner.

Christmas fayre in Wick village hall

WICK and District Pensioners' Club will be holding their annual Christmas fayre in Wick village hall on Saturday, November 15 from 2pm.

There will be lots of exciting Christmas stalls, including cakes, books, produce, tombola, and toiletries. Wick Youth Club will have a drinks, chocolate and sweets stall.

There will also be a raffle with numerous prizes. Admission is 50p to include refreshments. **GJ**

FONMON CASTLE WELCOMES HUNT

Host Sir Brooke Boothby.
Pictures by ***Heather March***

THE Glamorgan Hunt held their opening meet of the season at Fonmon Castle by invitation of Sir Brooke Boothby and his daughter Mrs Aliki Currimjee – who was not present as, on the previous day, she had delighted family and all her friends by giving birth to a lovely baby girl!

Over 60 horses and ponies and many foot followers enjoyed hospitality before setting off. HM

Ready for the off!

Filco team runs for Macmillan charity

MEMBERS of staff at Filco Supermarkets, including company director Matthew Hunt, laced up their running shoes and joined this year's Cardiff Half Marathon while raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Matthew Hunt

The team of five from different stores across south Wales, took on the challenge and had a fantastic day!

The stores have already donated over £2,500 to Macmillan Cancer Support and have been working hard fundraising even more over the past year.

Mr Hunt said: "We really enjoyed taking on the challenge of the Cardiff half marathon in aid of Macmillan. It was a very busy course this year with many more runners than usual so it was important to show our support for Macmillan and the great work they do with cancer suffers and their families."

Rebecca Parke, local fundraising manager, said: "I want to say a huge thank you to the team who took part in the Cardiff Half Marathon for their brilliant efforts and also to all the staff at Filco Supermarkets, who are working so hard to raise money for local people affected by cancer.

"Macmillan is almost entirely funded by donations, so the generosity of our staff and customers really does make a huge difference to the support we can provide."

For more information about Macmillan, please visit the website macmillan.org.uk or contact the fundraising centre on 0300 1000 200.

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A GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE IN THE GROUNDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH, COWBRIDGE IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR CROSSES IN REMEMBRANCE.

Crosses are available from British Legion Poppy Appeal collectors at Waitrose (Thurs-Sun); High Street, Cowbridge (Sat) and at NatWest Bank.

Alternatively, call Poppy Appeal organiser David Howell on 01446 774306.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Cowbridge History Society

CELEBRATING ITS 40th BIRTHDAY...

by DICK BUSWELL

FORTY years ago, on October 25, 1974, more than 50 people met in the council chamber of the Town Hall, to found the Cowbridge Historical Society – at a time when Cowbridge was fighting to retain its ancient Grammar School, new estates were being built, and the High Street being revitalized now that the by-pass was in operation.

Nationally, Harold Wilson was taking the country into the 'Common Market' via a referendum in which 67 per cent said 'yes'! It was a time of change.

The influential figures behind this local venture included Norman Williams, then Mayor of Cowbridge, and Miss Maud Gunter, a senior teacher at the Girls' High School. Norman recalls that the Rotary Club, of which he was a member, decided to support local initiatives to develop community activities: "I proposed a history society and Cecil England chose a gardening club".

The constitution said the new society would "foster interest in history of Cowbridge and District", "promote research into local history" and "preserve documents and other records."

Annual subscription would be one pound, but OAPs and students could join for 50p. A small committee was elected with Norman Williams voted as president and Miss Gunter as life vice-president. The chairman was to be John Hollings of 26, High Street. Letters of support were received from the town council and from the South Glamorgan County Council.

Initially, the society focused on a series of monthly talks but with the intention of setting up specialist study groups to look at specific aspects of local history, such archaeology and the history of buildings.

For its first season of talks, the society hoped to invite the well-known broadcaster and writer Wynford Vaughan Thomas to open proceedings, but unfortunately this came to nothing.

Nonetheless, the programme included talks on the history of the Glamorgan Constabulary, folk medicine and a study of Llanblethian Church.

In 1977, Miss Gunter died. It was agreed that an annual lecture be given in her memory, a tradition that holds good today.

Another early stalwart of the society was Yvonne Weeding, the excursions secretary. She was already well-known locally for the series of classes she gave on local architecture, so it was no surprise that the first trip was to Beaupre Castle.

Members were asked to bring a picnic tea. In 1977, she became the society's chairman – a post she was to hold for more than 20 years.

By 1978, membership had doubled to over 100. In these early years, it met in the town library largely because one of the members was the librarian, but in 1977, the County Council withdrew this facility quoting bureaucratic excuses: fire risk, insurance and "'interfering with the cleaner's duty schedule"! Luckily the town council came to the rescue with the offer to meet in the Lesser Hall – for a fee, of course – where the society has met ever since.

A formative influence on developments was the fact the Cardiff University's extramural department began classes in local history in Old Hall, the first series given by Philip Riden in 1977.

Later, Brian Ll James took over, to be succeeded by Jeff Alden when he retired as head of the sixth form at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Norman Williams had started to collect copies of important local documents; Yvonne Weeding recalls that having a member of the county archive on the committee helped considerably, but it was the extramural activities that exposed the need for detailed research on Cowbridge, especially on its town plan and its wealth of ancient buildings.

This resulted in the founding of the Cowbridge Record Society, with Jeff Alden and Brian Ll James as leading lights, supported by students from these classes.

Its main purpose was to research and record the history of people and places in and around Cowbridge and to publish the results in a series of books.

Its work involved the examination of hundreds of manuscripts, wills, probates and maps, many of which were held in the Glamorgan County Record Office, then in Cathays Park.

Jeff and Betty Alden soon became the repository of many such documents and photographs, so much so that Betty recalls: "They occupied most of our spare bedroom."

In 1979, the society was involved in the establishment of Cowbridge Museum, helping to provide some early financial support and many exhibits. Following the exhibition in the town hall of a recently-discovered contemporary copy of the town charter in 1976, Charter Day (March 13, 1254) was to be celebrated each year, usually to the accompaniment of wine and beer.

Today, it is celebrated by a visit to a place of historical importance, followed by a good lunch. Here was, and is, a society that knows its priorities!

From the very beginning, the society had adopted a brief to examine local planning policies and plans and to comment on them. In order to try to influence planning polices with respect to conservation, the society successfully sought membership of the Vale Council's Conservation Advisory Group, one of only a handful in Wales.

Originally, David Busher represented Cowbridge but for many years George Haynes took responsibility for this area of work within the society.

In addition to commenting on individual planning applications, local area plans and policies were also scrutinised, one example being the 1980 Cowbridge District Plan.

The society's minutes reveal the following areas of concern in this plan's proposals: car parking and its effects on trade in the town, resistance to additional, inappropriate house building, the poor local bus services and the upkeep of local footpaths, many of ancient usage.

The society's objections to the most recent LDPs of 2011 and 2013 reflect almost exactly the same concerns: plus ça change!

One historic building in the district that attracted particular attention was St Quentin's (Llanblethian) Castle which had been acquired by a local property developer and shamefully neglected. The society advocated compulsory purchase, but by 1990 nothing had happened, despite the Vale's MP (John Smith) asking questions in the House.

Local pressure was maintained and eventually the castle was taken into the public domain by CADW and restored as a controlled ruin.

Through the 1990s and early 2000s, membership fluctuated, sometimes up, sometimes down. New forms of entertainment and diversion were opening in the town, with many clubs having some overlap with history. Home-based entertainment was increasing through television, video rentals and online.

At the same time, the population of the town was changing. It was attracting more of the professional classes as commuters, and the elderly as retirees, many of whom did not necessarily have their roots in the Vale. Young people seemed to have much less interest in history.

Sadly, at this time, the society lost the services of its long-standing chairman, Jeff Alden. His enthusiasm, detailed knowledge and general dynamism had kept the society on its toes.

The books he wrote and edited with colleagues, the articles he produced for The GEM and the society's newsletter and the talks he gave to neighbouring historical societies kept concern for local history in Cowbridge in a healthy state.

His death in 2007 meant the town's history society would pass into fresh hands.

When Dick Buswell took over as chairman, there was considerable overlap in membership of the two existing societies. It is not perhaps surprising that one of his first tasks was to oversee their merger and the creation of the new Cowbridge History Society with a new constitution and charitable status.

It was important for Jeff Alden's contribution to be marked, and in a very practical way. He and Betty had long campaigned for the establishment of a permanent archive of Cowbridge material, so it was fitting that with the support of Creative Rural Communities and Old Hall Community College that the Jeff Alden Study Room was opened in 2008.

It is now embarking on the electronic digitisation of its resources, a step into future technology that Jeff would surely have approved.

Today, this new society has a membership of about 100 – remarkably similar to that of 40 years ago. It is as strong as ever in spirit, but always welcoming of new members, especially those of a less advanced age! As in the beginning, we still meet on the first Friday of each month between October and June in the Lesser Hall. Membership may now be £7.50 but in real terms that is not much more than the original £1 of 1974!

In the words of the old Harrow School song: 'Forty years on, growing older and older, shorter in wind, as in memory long... twenty, and thirty, and forty years on!'

... and Derek and Sheila are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary!

FORMER Barry couple Derek and Sheila Hart have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Derek and Sheila with their 70th wedding anniversary cake – their married life has been split between Barry and the Manchester area.

Their daughter Gill Hart-Molloy told The GEM:"My parents now live at Chatsworth Road, St Annes, but lived in Barry for over 56 years and still have friends in the area.

"They were members of Barry Yacht Club for much of that time. They lived in Borough Avenue, Lidmore Road, and, latterly, Trem-y-don before moving to Lytham St Annes to be near me and my family.

"We celebrated with a party for family and friends on October 25."

Derek told The GEM that the couple first met during the war, moving to Barry in 1949.

He explained: "In 1942, I was 17 and got a job in the laboratory at a small factory in Radcliffe, north Manchester, making 'bakelite type' moulding powders.

"It was part of what today would be called a business park. Sheila had an office in the sheet metal works.

"The first time I saw her, a beautiful blonde with a happy, smiling face, I took a shine to her.

"We were soon out dancing on Saturday nights. I was keen on cycling and I suspected we were getting closer when she bought a bike!

"The wartime roads were traffic free and we had some pleasant bike trips – one to Southport, I remember."

"Sadly this stopped when I was conscripted in November 1943, but the romance continued and a lucky posting to Huddersfield for training gave me opportunities to sneak out and cadge a lift back to Radcliffe.

"Any lorry driver would pick up a soldier, though it sometimes meant a long wait for one.

"Not having a pass out, I had to return in civvies to avoid military police at Victoria Station. Climbing back into camp was no problem."

Derek and Sheila's wartime romance had to overcome a number of further obstacles.

"A posting to Epping put an end to our meetings.

"I was then notified of a 14-day embarkation leave and during that time we became officially engaged and had thoughts of marriage – with little encouragement from Sheila's maiden aunts who said 'what if he comes back with bits missing, or not at all?' "

Arrangements for the wedding were in jeopardy when Derek was recalled due to the rescheduling of a convoy.

"I swiftly arranged to see my Commanding Officer, who was most sympathetic and allowed me a 48 hour pass!

"The activity was like a beehive in springtime! We were married the day after I returned on October 25, 1944.

"Sheila's mother altered her sister Joyce's dress and I borrowed her brother-in-law Bert's morning suit. I didn't want to marry in khaki uniform.

"After the ceremony at St John's Church, Radcliffe, we had a reception at the Co-Op. The next day I had to leave on a troopship for Burma and I didn't see Sheila for three long years until August 1947.

"Churchill wanted to keep us out there for another year but a parade of mainly Lancashire ladies – my mother and Sheila included – petitioned 10 Downing Street with banners flying, and may have changed his mind."

So how did Derek and Sheila end up moving to south Wales?

"After the war, I returned to my previous post of control chemist at the Radcliffe factory of British Resin Products and learned that a new plant was to be based in Barry and we would have to close.

"I am the surviving member of the four-man team of key workers who chose to move to Barry, Alfred Withington, technical manager, and two foremen Bob Mather and George McFarland, in 1949. Sheila and our daughter Kathryn soon joined me.

"The plant later became part of the BP empire in 1967.

"We lived in Barry for 56 years where our second daughter, Gillian, was born. We returned to Lancashire in 2006 to be near her and the family. "

Derek added: "Sadly almost five years ago Sheila suffered a severe stroke, and since then I have been her full-time carer, assisted by professional carers, who attend four times a day, and support from family who live close by."

Ex-Air America pilot speaking to aviation society

AIR AMERICA, an airline secretly owned by the CIA, was a vital component in the agency's operations in Laos.

By the summer of 1970, the airline had some two dozen twin-engine transports, another two dozen short-take off-and-landing (STOL) aircraft, and 30 helicopters dedicated to operations in Laos. There were more than 300 pilots, co-pilots, flight mechanics and air freight specialists flying out of Laos and Thailand.

Ralph Arnesen was born in Brooklyn, New York, of parents who came to the USA. Ralph's mother came as a young girl and his father joined the US Army and became an American citizen.

In 1969, Ralph served in Vietnam flying Bell Huey helicopters out of Saigon and then worked for Air America in Laos. Following that era Ralph flew helicopters in 'the bush', in Indonesia.

His illustrated talk will be filled with anecdotes and events leading up to working in Norway as a safety advisor and flying in the North Sea until retirement.

His illustrated talk will give a fascinating insight into flying in war zones, in clandestine situations and then peacetime flying.

Ralph Arnesen will be speaking to the society on Friday, November 7, at 8pm.

Visitors are welcome to attend but should contact the hon secretary for seating availability. A donation of £2 per head is requested.

Hon secretary: Mike Duxbury, tel (01446) 711482; mobile 07829 124353.

BARRIE HOWELL

HOLTON PRIMARY'S AUTUMN THEME – HELPING OTHERS

Rev C Jones with year-6 pupils.

PUPILS are regarded as important stakeholders at Holton Primary "because we believe their future can be influenced by the experiences they have in school."

This term, pupils throughout the school have been working to support local and national charities.

Year-6 pupils hosted the school's annual harvest assembly, with an address from Rev Clive Jones.

The produce displayed (totalling 115kgs in weight) was donated to the Vale Foodbank, a local charity that provides food parcels to families in need.

Spooky goings on at local golf club!

ABOVE: The ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club celebrating Halloween.

MACBETH was accosted by three witches but there was a whole coven at Cottrell Park Golf Club when the ladies section met for their Halloween feast.

More than 30 bats, witches, ghosts and ghouls were gathered for the feast, which took place in a dark, cobwebbed room, dimly lit with a few sputtering candles.

The Chief Witch, Patricia Davies, endeavoured to keep order by giving them tasks such as wrapping up a mummy and ducking for apples.

The photograph is of the motley crew most skilled at performing the Chief Witch's tasks and they won prizes made by the Chief Witch!

The most frightening creature was a graveyard ghoul, dressed in black with a silver mask and bones rattling on chains round its neck. Thankfully its alter-ego is Kay Bradbury, who also won a prize. **CI**

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP with AJ SICLUNA

Suspended sentence given for attack on two police officers

A YOUNG man who was seen threatening to cut his throat and who later attacked two police officers has been jailed for nine months, the sentence suspended for two years, and made subject to a supervision order for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kyle Sulman, 23, of Holton Road, Barry, had admitted possessing an offensive weapon and two charges of assault.

Recorder Elwen Evans, QC, said that Sulman had been in custody for a month.

"It is accepted you threatened no one with the knife, which you held to your own throat."

The time he had spent in custody, she said, had had a significant impact on Sulman.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on September 29, a teenage girl saw Sulman sitting on a bin in George Street, Barry, crying and holding a kitchen knife to his throat.

She approached Sulman and asked him for the knife. He responded by saying: "I need it so I can end my life."

He said his girlfriend had finished with him because she regarded him as paranoid.

He calmed down and was about to hand her the knife when someone shouted at him.

Five police officers later went to his flat, where he became violent and kicked a woman police officer in the groin, and tried to head butt another.

He was handcuffed and his legs were restrained.

Mr Greenwood said: "He told officers he had wanted to cut his throat and would have gone through with it. He attacked the police, he said to "get rid of his anger".

His solicitor, Adan Sharp, said Sulman was likely to be evicted from his accommodation because the incident involved a knife.

Sulman was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work, and to take part in a thinking skills course.

Barry woman (19) gets her 'last chance'

A DRUG addict who breached a suspended sentence for offences of violence by shoplifting has been given a community order for a year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jade Miller (19) of Treharne Road, Barry, had been convicted of a charge of theft.

She was also in breach of a two-year suspended sentence for causing actual bodily harm and wounding with intent.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that Miller was caught shoplifting at Boots in the centre of Cardiff when she took property worth £225. Security staff in the premises saw her and a man taking toiletries and food and leave without paying.

The offences of violence, he said, involved her attacking a man, using a stiletto heel as a weapon.

The victim suffered cuts to his head and reduced vision.

Her counsel, Charley Patterson, said: "She has been a drug addict for some time and is now seeking help. Fortunately, her grandparents are committed to rehabilitating her."

She added: "It is time for her to grow up. She does not want to be in and out of prison, and the violent offences were a one-off."

Recorder Lloyd Jones said society and the defendant were best assisted by her trying to continue with the progress she was making.

She was made subject to a supervision order for a year and to take a nine-month drugs rehabilitation course.

She was also made subject to a 9pm to 7am curfew for four months, which will be electronically tagged.

"This is your last chance. Take this opportunity," she was told.

MP IN THE PINK!

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has added his voice to the fight against breast cancer, by taking part in Breast Cancer campaign's flagship fundraiser, 'wear it pink' day.

People across the Vale found fun ways to wear pink in the office, at home or school and donations raised will help fund lifesaving breast cancer research.

Mr Cairns said: "Every year in the UK, over 50,000 women and around 350 men are diagnosed with breast cancer. Sadly, 12,000 women and 80 men die from this disease each year.

"This is why I support Breast Cancer Campaign's fundraising efforts to support world-class breast cancer research that saves and improves lives, giving people quicker diagnoses and more effective treatments."

CREDIT UNION ADVICE SESSION

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale is holding a session in the Senior Health Shop, at 38, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, November 11 from 10am to 12 midday, with an adviser from Cardiff and Vale Credit Union.

No appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

MEET LOCAL BOBBIES AT PACT MEETINGS

COURT PACT public meeting at the Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry on Thursday, November 6 at 6pm.

BARUC PACT public meeting, at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on Tuesday, November 11 at 6.30pm.

CADOC PACT public meeting at Palmerston Community & Learning Centre on Wednesday, November 12 at 6pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT public meeting at the Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry on Monday, November 10 at 7pm.

Deaf Pact Meeting at Station 20, Barry Fire Station on Thursday, December 4 at 6.30pm.

STANWELL PACT public meeting at Glyndwr Hall, Glyndwr Road on Friday, November 28 at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a PACT meeting, please contact 101 or log on to www.ourbobby.com.

Council publishes improvement plan

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has published its Improvement Plan (part 2) for 2014.

The plan reports on the council's performance over the previous year, using a range of national and local data.

A summary is available, which provides a taster of the information available in the document. To view the plan or the summary, in English or Welsh, visit the council website at ***www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.***

Hard copies of both plan and summary will also be made available in libraries and at council receptions.

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Paying tribute in Remembrance – *Lest we forget*

Welsh flags proudly fly to honour heroes

AS we prepare for Remembrance events this weekend and mark the 11th hour of the 11th day of November, we will be remembering all those who have served and lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, and subsequent wars and conflicts involving our Armed Forces.

I was fortunate to join veterans of the 53rd (Welsh) Division at the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Liberation of 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands on October 24. One hundred and forty six soldiers died during the four-day battle to free the city in October 1944, and I attended the official naming of a new bridge in honour of those Welsh soldiers who liberated the town.

I laid a wreath on behalf of the Welsh Government in memory of the Welsh soldiers who lost their lives in the battle, and met surviving veterans and their relatives from across Wales and England.

They have been welcomed by the Mayor and the people of 's-Hertogenbosch every year, and I joined in thanking them for their acts of bravery and courage, supported by the October 1944 Foundation.

All over the city, there were Welsh flags flying and I was joined by Brigadier Napier and Welsh soldiers serving today. 2014 is a landmark year with the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and the 70th anniversary of D Day and the 70th anniversary, on October 27, of the Liberation of 'Den Bosch as the city is known locally.

Commemorative events attracted hundreds of people and the Bridgend Male Voice Choir performed in a final liberation concert with the 's-Hertogenbosch Mixed Choir.

At the opening ceremony in the town hall, I said the links that have been forged between our nations will last for many years to come and the warmth of feeling towards Wales was reciprocated by the visitors from Wales, who have developed strong friendship links over the years.

I will be thinking of this visit when I pay tribute to our armed forces with the children of Barry at Barry Cemetery tomorrow (Friday, November 7) and on Sunday, November 9 at the Civic Offices and Barry Memorial Hall Cenotaph.

I will also be remembering those who gave their lives from across the Vale as local people join their town and community councils, mayors and local dignitaries in every village and town of our county to lay their wreaths.

I would like to thank the Royal British Legion for organising concerts and selling poppies across the Vale over the past few weeks-continuing to make the poppy a constant symbol for our memories; and to raise the funds which help to support veterans, alongside the services provided by the Health Service, local authorities and the Welsh Government.

Finally, as we mark the 100 years since the First World War, we will commit ourselves to work for peace, as we remember those who sacrificed 'their tomorrow' for our today.

*We **will** remember them.*

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

Art group's cheques for local charities

SULLY Painting Group members are grateful to all those who came and supported their annual exhibition in June.

This year our display was extended to three days, and we were blessed with sunny weather every day. Visitors were able to enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake, while picking out their favourite picture.

From the proceeds of the event, Nigel Adams, chairman, at the AGM on Tuesday October 28, presented a cheque for £550 to Geoff Back from Ty Hafan. Ros Adams, the exhibition organiser, presented a cheque for £550 to Lara Cowpe for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

We thank visitors again and look forward to continued support next year.

RAD

WHAT'S ON / *news in brief*

Author's book-signing

LOCAL teacher Laura Sheldon will be at Griffin Books in Penarth this Saturday (November 8) between 11am and 12 noon, to sign copies of her recently-published children's book, 'Mr Mahli's Shed and a Ghost Named Dylan'.

The book, which features the ghost of Dylan Thomas, centres on the poet's 'writing shed' in Laugharne, which was the inspiration for the writers' shed at Sully Primary School where Laura teaches.

Lavernock service

ON Sunday (November 9) at 3pm, the little Church of St Lawrence in Fort Road, Lavernock, will be holding a service of Remembrance, led by Rev Margaret Stark with organist Miss Ann Thomas. ***Enquiries to 029 20701303.***

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Told In The Huts – the YMCA gift book

I HAD the honour of writing the 2014 introduction to 'Told In The Huts' – The YMCA gift book first published in 1916.

This is what I had to say: "In the original introduction to this book, Arthur K Yapp tells how within days of the start of the First World War the YMCA huts and hostels came into being.

"The book was published with a view to boosting YMCA funds and also to draw attention 'to one of the greatest social and religious movements of our time'. The stories therein, which were contributed by service men and others, are both humorous and sad. They give us more than a glimpse of those dark days and the people who lived through them 100 years ago.

"And as the long gone Miss Lena Ashwell writes in her concerts at the front contribution: 'The YMCA realised in the early days of the war that the needs of our men would include not only food and shells, guns and hospital stores, but some of the amenities of civilisation – food for the mind and spirit as well as the body. The YMCA certainly played their part in bringing comfort to the troops'."

It is thanks to Barry's Mandy Caddy, of the Cardiff YMCA, who took the decision to reprint this splendid book to commemorate the centenary of the Great War that we now know what a special part the YMCA played back then.

For more information on obtaining a copy of this book e-mail enquiries@cardiffymcaha.co.uk or see their website www.cardiffymcaha.co.uk.

Brian Lee

'ALFIE' TELLS HIS STORY TO BOOK FESTIVAL AUDIENCE

THERE was plenty of laughter, and some tears too, last Thursday (October 30) when former Welsh and British Lions captain Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas was interviewed by award-winning sports writer Michael Calvin at the Cowbridge Book Festival.

Gareth Thomas and Michael Calvin had plenty of books to sign. (Photograph by Dave Allen).

Gareth and Michael are co-writers of Gareth's inspiring autobiography *Proud* and during the writing of the book the two men have become friends and clearly trust and respect each other greatly.

Gradually, through their conversation and Michael's pertinent questioning, Gareth's character and his moving story began to emerge.

He is a very charismatic and exuberant man with a huge sense of fun and a great empathy for others. Obviously, these are necessary qualities for any successful international sports captain.

He is also extremely aware of his place in the sporting history of his beloved home town Bridgend but it is his passion for Wales, and his pride in the red jersey and leading Wales to a Grand Slam Victory, (surely every captain's dream), that really defines him.

But Gareth is also an honest man and living in denial about his sexuality nearly cost him his life. With the love and support of family, friends, team mates and, particularly, former assistant coach Scott Johnston, he found the courage to come out.

Having the endorsement of those people who really meant something to him, was a life-changer for Gareth and, eventually, he was able accept the fact that he was, Gareth Thomas rugby player, and his sexuality was a non-issue!

Heroes emerge for many reasons and Gareth Thomas presented an appreciative audience with a unique example.

During an emotionally charged event, he described the unusually difficult transition from international rugby hero to an icon for all those young men, and women, who wrestle with the challenge of revealing their true sexuality to family, friends and colleagues.

Thankfully, the public attitude to homosexuality is evolving and heroes like 'Alfie' are courageously leading from the front, as any rugby captain of his standing must.

To his credit he is also a dedicated supporter of the charity Childline and frequently visits schools to talk about bullying.

His warm reception from the audience was confirmed by the long queue of people wanting their own signed copy of the book.

On behalf of the Cowbridge Book Festival, Dr Chris Howard thanked Gareth and Michael for allowing us to share their fascinating and frank conversation.

He also thanked the Bear Hotel for generously offering the use of St Quentin's Suite for what became a very moving evening.

The final festival event for 2014 is something quite different! An intimate conversation between good friends, award winning author Katie Fforde, début novelist Jo Thomas and local favourite, BBC broadcaster Lucy Owen. (Cowbridge United Free Church, Wednesday, November 12 at 7.30pm).

All proceeds from festival events are donated to leukemia and lymphoma research and The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales.

Details of all events can be found on www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available online via the Festival Website or TicketlineUK or from David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) High St., Cowbridge or Nicklebys' Book Shop, Pound Field, Llantwit Major.

STELLA CHEESEMAN

Regional AM's local surgeries

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding three advice surgeries in the week commencing November 3.

On Friday, November 7, she will be at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA between 1pm and 2pm.

On Saturday, November 8, she will be at her Constituency Office, at 38 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AD, between 12 noon and 1pm.

Residents who have any issues of concern to them, or their local community, are encouraged to attend – no appointment is necessary.

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All you have to do is email gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk telling us in no more than 200 words why you think your nomination deserves the help.
Normal competition rules apply. Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Closing date: 13th November 2014

LOCAL CARE HOME CHEF'S AWARD FOR FINE DINING

A CHEF who introduced candlelit dinners with soft music and good wine at a care home, has won a top national award.

Since becoming head chef at Shire Hall Care Home in Overstone Court, Cardiff, Gareth Matthews has introduced various innovations, as well as impressing residents and colleagues alike with his culinary skills.

Now his passion and talent has been acknowledged at the annual Wales Care Awards, run by Care Forum Wales, where he picked up the prestigious gold honour in the Catering in Care category, sponsored by Harlech Food Services.

The event at Cardiff City Hall, sponsored by Barclays Bank, was hosted by Vale-based TV newsreader Lucy Owen.

Gareth (37) lives in Barry, and went along to the glittering prizegiving evening at Cardiff's City Hall on Friday to collect his accolade with wife, Gemma, by his side.

He said: "It is still sinking in really. It was such a surprise to get the gold. I was nominated a few years ago and got a bronze award so it feels really nice to have done even better. It was a fantastic evening and there were so many awards. We were towards the end so the nerves were really building by then.

"But it was good food and it was nice to have someone cook for me for a change, too!"

Gareth shared the top honour with a colleague from the Hallmark Group who run the Shire Hall, Claire Wilkins, so the pair were delighted to collect the joint award together.

He said: "It was nice to share it with Claire and it feels good to get a bit of a pat on the back every now and again. I've had a few awards from within the company before, but this one is all impartial and covers the whole of Wales so it is really nice to be recognized."

After completing his training in Cardiff, Gareth worked at numerous hotels in Britain and Spain but with three young children wanted a change from the long unsocial hours.

Since joining Hallmark six years ago Gareth has won the company's own top catering award three times and describes the Shire Hall, which has 98 residents, as being like a "very nice, small hotel".

Gareth was put forward for the award by Shire Hall's manager Karen Grapes, who said that among the changes he had introduced was a choice of cooked or continental breakfasts and selection of pancakes.

He said: "Obviously, some residents cannot go out to restaurants and so I decided to create the same kind of scenario here, and the cinema is converted into a restaurant. The residents and their relatives who can join them do appreciate it."

When Gareth is not creating classy culinary experiences at work, he spends his time with his three children and also supporting his favourite rugby team, the Blues in Cardiff.

Mario Kreft, the Chair of Care Forum Wales, said there had been a record number of nominations and the standard was extremely high.

"This awards ceremony is our opportunity to pay tribute and to celebrate the talent and commitment that is improving the quality of life for thousands and thousands of people throughout Wales. We take our hats off to them."

Gareth Matthews with his award.

BBC to screen results of film training scheme

THE Pencoed-based film production company, It's My Shout, has produced a series of nine short films for BBC2 Wales and S4C, and they started airing this week.

It marks the latest step forward for the company, which started life as an offshoot from the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) when Roger Burnell decided to use the summer holidays to give young people in Bridgend county borough the chance to work and act in short films.

Over the years, the project has grown, and the BYT is now part of It's My Shout, while that summer film project has grown to include a film training scheme that is providing workers for the burgeoning Welsh film industry.

Over the years, films made by other county boroughs and colleges were included in the package, and major strides were taken four or five years ago when the BBC became more involved, and recognised the value of the project as a training ground for actors and technicians.

This year, nine films – three in Welsh and six in English – were unveiled at a glossy evening at the Wales Millennium Centre, and the first, *The Homing Bird* was broadcast at 11.15pm last Tuesday (November 4) on BBC2 Wales, but is still available on iPlayer.

The increasing involvement of the BBC has made for much stronger scripts which require pretty intense acting. The downside, perhaps, is that there aren't as many parts for really young actors as in earlier years, but anyone who takes the trouble to watch or tape the films will catch some very promising young talent.

Roger Burnell, the managing director of It's My Shout, said: "I'm delighted that so many people have responded to what we are doing – both the industry and communities.

"It's really important to develop our own talent now that more film production facilities are moving to Wales."

BBC2 Wales will be showing the English films on the following dates, and the first, Like/Unlike, a sharp satire on social media, was shot on location in Barry:

Like/Unlike – November 11.

Orson-Welles Complex – November 18.

Mountain View – November 25

Hitched – December 2

Moving On – December 9.

A documentary on the making of the films will be shown on December 16.

The Welsh language films, entitled Bara Menyn, Jiw Jiws, and Plu Oen will be shown on S4C over three nights, November 17/18/19.

The film Moving On was shot in Cardiff and features Porthcawl actor Joe Wiltshire Smith in a supporting role.

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SKILLS OLYMPICS SQUAD IN TRAINING AT RHOOSE AIRPORT

Candidates at ICAT with Leighton Marson (centre).

MARTHA ORMEROD.

COMPETITORS in the aircraft engineering rounds of the prestigious WorldSkills UK were at Cardiff and Vale College for expert training ahead of this month's finals.

Two sets of candidates came to the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) at Cardiff Airport. They are competing in the mechanical and avionics finals of WorldSkills UK; often referred to as the 'Skills Olympics', some winners this year could go on to compete in the global WorldSkills finals in Sao Paulo next year.

Training at ICAT was organised by lead aeronautical engineering lecturer Leighton Marson and engineering training provider semta. Lecturer Les Ball undertook training for the mechanical competition in ICAT's aircraft workshop and Leighton provided avionics practice in the avionics lab during the two-day coaching session.

WorldSkills competitors from a range of organisations took part, including the RAF, Fleet Air Arm, QinetiQ and Jaguar Land Rover.

Also present during the training was Level 2 aircraft engineering ICAT student Martha Ormerod, who is not taking part in WorldSkills this year but is determined to put herself forward for next year's competition.

Martha had come in during her half term study review week to get a taste of what WorldSkills entails.

"I wanted to find out more about the event in general and see what I will have to do when I go forward next year," Martha, who is 24 and lives in Llantwit Major, explained. "It has been really nice to meet these different people – people who are in the WorldSkills competition and people who are interested the same field as me."

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Fibromyalgia group

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group will be on November 11 between 11am and 1pm.

Contact group leader Gaynor Davies on 01446 733315, for more information.

Aero wants home to reduce stress levels

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for animals at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

AERO is a nine-year-old Staffy cross. She is a sweet and affectionate girl, but she is getting very stressed in kennels.

Because of this, she is not currently mixing with other dogs, but we feel when her stress levels are lower in a home, she will start to relax and will start mixing with dogs again.

She will need an experienced owner who can work alongside our trainers and take advice on how to calm Aero and start introducing her to dogs once settled into a home environment.

She can live with children over the age of 14 – Aero will make a lovely companion for someone who is around to keep her company during the day!

If you can offer Aero a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12pm – 4pm every day except Monday.

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GROUP PRESSES FOR CHILDREN'S SWINGS AT GARDEN SUBURB

RESIDENTS have set up a group to campaign for the provision of a set of swings for the increasing number of children in the Garden Suburb housing area.

Vice-chair Rachael Williams, for the 'Friends of the Garden Suburb' group explained: "There is a lack of facilities for children in the area, and there is an overwhelming demand from the local children and young families for some form of leisure facilities.

"It is important for neighbourhood children to be able to play together safely, and also for parents to meet and get to know each other in a time where the feeling of 'community' is sadly being lost.

"For too long there have been no facilities for children and the nearest parks of Porthkerry and Romilly Park can be quite inaccessible, especially when having to push a pram. There are also safety concerns about young children having to walk through the woods to gain access to other playgrounds."

Chairperson Vicky Roberts stated: "There were originally tennis courts next to Marine Drive but these were sadly built on in the early 1980s.

"Both a paper and Facebook petitions were set up, and despite negotiations with the parks department of the Vale Council, they have refused to further the groundwork for a site, even though there are many suitable sites in the Garden Suburb. The area we require is only 9 metres square for an infant and child swing.

"What is even more frustrating is that we have funding for the payment of the swings from the Welsh Town and Country Planning Trust, but the council will not assist further in finding a suitable donor site in the area to erect the swings. We did initially have support from the local councillors but that was withdrawn when some residents dismissed the idea for fear of attracting troublemakers.

"If the council still fail to assist us with our aim, then all we can do is continue to lobby them, with the aid of other organisations, to help our cause in finding a piece of land to install the swings."

Kevin Moore talks to Jane Hutt about his work.

Artist's display in aid of MIND

THE opening of local photographer Kevin Moore's exhibition at Barry Town Station Travellers' Gallery, in aid of the MIND charity, was attended by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

The exhibition will run until Friday, November 7 (7am – 12.30pm) and showcases pictures of local places of interest from across the Vale and Cardiff. All proceeds go to MIND.

Dinas bazaar

THERE'S a 2014 Christmas Bazaar at Bethel House, Dinas Powys (part of the Hebron Hall complex) on Saturday November 22 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Crafters are invited to book a table (£5 per table) – these need to be booked by Monday November 17. Contact Sue or Julie on 02920 513 162.

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Out and About with The GEM

Gyllenhall's Nightcrawler one of the films of the year

SINCE making a dent with 2001's *Donnie Darko*, Jake Gyllenhall has built up an impressive resumé of work, the likes of *Brokeback Mountain*, *Zodiac* and *Source Code*, among others, highlighting the actor's ability to choose work wisely.

His latest film, *Nightcrawler*, sees him play Lou Bloom, a man seeking a purpose, who thinks he finds it when he comes across a man filming the aftermath of a car crash. Going into this world of 'journalism', and teaming up with a news producer (Rene Russo) and a lackey (Riz Ahmed), Bloom's stock rises – but at what point will he stop in order to get the perfect story...

The nature of news reporting has undergone a sea change in recent years, with the emphasis appearing to move away from fact and instead being focused on sensationalism and gossip; the validity of the story less important than the number of readers, viewers or hits a story will receive.

It's this type of journalism that has seemingly driven Dan Gilroy to write, and direct, *Nightcrawler*, the film as much about this world as it is about blind ambition and how far people will go to achieve what they want.

Our entry into this world is Lou, a man who we learn early on isn't afraid of getting his hands dirty and who seems to be striving for a way to make his mark in society. He's something of a fantasist, but with a darkness and danger lurking not that far from the surface.

The character is sharply written and brought to vivid life by Jake Gyllenhall, who doesn't just deliver a performance, but who inhabits the character so fully that you are completely taken in by him.

Having lost 20 pounds to play him, and with the hollowed cheekbones and darkened eyes dominating his features, it would be easy to chalk this up to just method acting, but Gyllenhall's turn is so much more than that.

Holding the story squarely on his shoulders, with nary a scene without him, Gyllenhall propels the film, granting Bloom so much depth that his lack of backstory passes almost unnoticed. All we know of Bloom is what we see on screen, and Gyllenhall manages to convey everything about Lou with an incredible turn.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Alongside him, Rene Russo may have a slightly more clichéd character in the hungry, no-holds-barred news producer battling for the biggest scoops, but she offers a solid turn, while Riz Ahmed, so good in the likes of *Four Lions* and *Shifty*, plays the edgy lackey to Bloom's cocksure entrepreneur, his performance one elongated nervous tic as he, and the audience, try to get a real handle on just who Bloom is and what he could be capable of.

Dan Gilroy has penned the somewhat generic likes of *Real Steel* and *The Bourne Legacy*, which makes *Nightcrawler* all that more surprising and impressive, as the usual tropes are avoided in a screenplay that slowly ramps up tension, threatening to boil over at any point. Its barbs are aimed with precision, but delivered so that the audience are allowed to make their own minds up over the validity and moral debate of Bloom's chosen profession.

While the film bears the influence of Martin Scorsese's sparse, character-driven films of yesteryear (Lou could be mistaken for *The King Of Comedy*'s Rupert Pupkin in his mannered delivery), Gilroy also paints Bloom as a product of the times, something made real by the society in which we live.

It also carries some lighter touches, the satire and black comedy bleeding into the edges, and while Bloom could easily be played as an eager fool, the writing and performance mean he's never to be taken lightly.

In his directorial debut, Gilroy delivers an assured and focused effort, the film sparsely and impressively shot, the clarity and directness of the screenplay parlayed into his directorial style. Late-night Los Angeles will always draw comparisons with Michael Mann, and while the film shares his visual hallmarks, as well as those of Nicolas Winding Refn's *Drive*, it doesn't lessen the impact in the slightest.

Nightcrawler is one of those, sadly now, rare films that comes out of nowhere and dazzles you with its brilliance. Its convergence of incredible performances, sharp writing and impressive direction makes it one of the finest films of the year, one that will certainly stay with you afterwards.

VERDICT – A standout effort, Dan Gilroy's directorial debut draws a stunning lead performance from Jake Gyllenhall that makes *Nightcrawler* live long in the memory. Gilroy's economic, powerful script packs a punch, creating a darkly comic thriller showcasing what may be Gyllenhall's finest turn yet. Must see.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The King of Comedy* (1982), *Drive* (2011).

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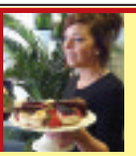

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What's On - In brief

Book sale

COWBRIDGE library book sale is now on!

Fiction, non-fiction, and children's books.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, November 9 at 10am, Llanddunwyd/Around Welsh St Donats, starting at the roadside, Welsh St Donats.

Also on November 9 at 2pm, coastal path to nature reserve starting at Fontygary Leisure Park.

On Tuesday, November 11 at 1.30pm, views of the coast circular starting at Penarth cliff top car park.

On Wednesday, November 12, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre at 10.30am.

On Wednesday, November 19 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, November 26 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet again at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre.

St Hilary memories

ON Tuesday, November 4 villagers are invited to enjoy tea and cakes in the village hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

However, there is a catch! We want to gather villagers' memories of living in the village as well as share what we have already discovered.

What better way to spend the afternoon, gossiping about the past and sharing photos of interest – we would like to scan any photos or documents to enrich the conversations. And if you have any documents that you think might be of interest bring them along.

If you are new to the village, please come along if you just want to find out.

Remembrance concert

LYNDSAY ELLIS of The Vale Funeral Service and John Lewis of JPL Sound/The Barry Music Shop are presenting a free Remembrance Concert on Thursday, November 6 at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite the Mount Sorrel Hotel).

Concert commences at 7pm.

Presenter for the evening – Mr Dean Caldwell; celebrant Father Ben Andrews.

Autumn lunches

ALL Saints' Church, Park Road, Barry is offering good company and food at their autmn lunches in the church hall (12pm to 1.30pm) on four successive Thursdays, from November 6 to November 27 inclusive.

Lunch will include soup, crusty bread, home-made puddings and tea or coffee for £5 a head, including a free raffle. Everyone is welcome.

JO

Library information

THERE will be a 'drop-in' session on the Vale Council's plans at Rhoose Library on Friday, November 7 from 3.30pm-7pm. Senior Library staff will be there.

St Hilary Remembrance

AT St Hilary Church on Sunday, November 7 at 6.30pm a service of commemoration and remembrance to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The service will consist of poems, music and other readings.

It is intended to be for the whole village and not just the regular congregation and so it is hoped that as many as possible will be there.

Labour surgery

LABOUR Vale and Barry town councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell will hold their monthly advice surgery this Saturday, November 8 in the Drop In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry from 10.30am until 12pm. No appointment necessary.

If you need advice but can't attend, call Coun Elmore on 01446 450007, or 07867 506116.

Plaid advice

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns with Plaid Cymru councillors Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges at The Community Room, the County Library, King's Square, Barry from 11am until 12 midday on Saturday, November 8. No appointments are necessary.

Rear Admiral's book signing

FORMER Rear Admiral Chris Parry CBE is in Penarth on November 14 to talk about his recently-published book, *Super Highway: Sea Power in the 21st Century.*

In the book, Parry describes how the coming decades will witness a 'scramble' for the seas, making them a key arena for both cooperation and competition, with the potential for conflict between major powers, aspiring states and aggressive commercial interests.

Now retired, he joined the Royal Navy in 1972, was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2005, then became the MoD's Director of Developments, Concepts and Doctrines.

The talk and book signing will take place on the gallery of All Saints' Church in Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. For full information, visit griffinbooks.co.uk.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for October 30, 2014 is:
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Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives

On behalf of The Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Mayor, Councillor Howard Hamilton, wishes the **Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal** every success and is pleased to support this worthy cause.
Ar ran Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y mae'r Maer, y Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton am ddymuno pob llwyddiant i **Apêl Y Pabi'r Lleng Brydeinig Frenhinol** ac yn falch o gefnogi'r achos teilwng hwn.

'Extraordinary' museum commemorates First World War centenary

To commemorate the centenary of World War One, it was decided that the RAF and civilian staff of MoD St Athan would undertake a project that was personal to them.

The project needed to be achievable, accessible and inclusive for everyone on the station, so it was decided to create a small museum. This would provide a means for personnel and their families to share their history and family experiences and losses surrounding World War One.

A spokeswoman said: "The project started in a modest way, but it wasn't long before it grew legs and evolved into something quite extraordinary. What started with one room quickly extended to two, and in a short space of time extended to the whole church.

ABOVE: AC Saunderson and Wg Cdr Balls open the museum.

"The project began early in the spring during which time MoD St Athan was fortunate enough to have a number of keen work experience students, Nicola Casling, Rhiannon Thomas and Ellie Brown who set about outlining the various elements of the museums contents.

"Nicola Casling, who was on an extended placement, spent time ensuring that the project progressed in the way that had been agreed and she also did much of the practical work to ensure the success of the project.

"Each of the various sections across the station were given different elements of the war to cover as a project, ranging from; joining up, the home front, medical, engineering, aviation, animals at war, weapons, shot at dawn, and chaplaincy at war.

"In addition, there are many personal accounts and family histories that personnel have kindly agreed to share.

"The museum officially opened on August 4 following the Station's Act of Commemoration for the beginning of World War One.

"The commemoration service was well attended by both military and civilian personnel.

"It was led by the chaplaincy team, with a statement read by the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls.

Following the Lord's Prayer, a candle was lit, a blessing said, and the hymn *'Make me a channel of your peace'* sung to conclude the service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

Wartime museum to open on Remembrance Sunday

THE Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway Station will be open on Remembrance Sunday from 12.15pm until 4pm.

The volunteer-run museum, which is rated as Barry's second best attraction on Trip Advisor, seeks to educate visitors about the part that Barry and the rest of the Vale played in all of Britain's conflicts.

Based on the version at the Imperial War Museum, the Great War trench proves popular with visitors and is the only one in the Vale.

The museum also opens on Wednesday afternoons throughout the winter, and volunteers are keen to hear from local schools if they would like to visit.

One of the key priorities for the Barry at War group, who run the museum, is to improve the offering for schools throughout this winter.

Barry at War will also be supporting the Pontypridd Festival of Remembrance, by providing Great War uniforms for Cadets and Staff of Barry`s Air Training Corps Squadron.

You can find out more about the museum at the Facebook site https://www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup or by emailing Ade Pitman at littledevon@ntlworld.com. ***AP***

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Supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal
David Melding AM
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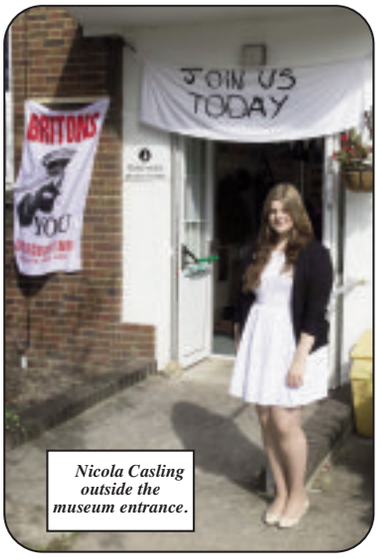
1914 WW1 CENTENARY 1918

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Poignant reminder of the young heroes who did not return



Nicola Casling outside the museum entrance.

Inside the museum.

Some of the exhibits inside the church.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

It seemed only fitting that AC Sanderson, age 17 yrs, the youngest student at No 4 School of Technical Training (4SoTT)) was asked to open the museum alongside the Commanding Officer. This acted as a poignant reminder to every one of the ages of the young men who were going off to war, many of whom did not return."

The museum has become a focal point and a continuing reminder to all of the sacrifices made between 1914-1918.

Many personnel across the Station have visited along with other members of local history groups and schools.

The museum will be open to the public by prior arrangement on Thursdays 2pm–4pm or Wednesdays 6pm–8pm until December 18. Additional bookings can be made through the media communications office on 01446 797118.

Wg Cdr Balls and AC Sanderson light candles to remember the fallen.

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Councillor M.W. Butcher
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LOCAL COMPANY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED...

LEFT: Pizza Pronto in Penarth had a novel way of marking the period of Remembrance this year, as members of the public were able to purchase a poppy and staple it to the outside of their premises.

The popular eaterie will also be donating all profits from 11am to 11pm on November 11 to Royal British Legion, giving diners even more of an excuse to enjoy their wonderful food!

Rhoose holds Remembrance Day service and a parade

THIS Remembrance Day is special, as it is the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

The Rhoose Remembrance Day Parade and Service will take place on Sunday, November 9.

The service, conducted by Rev Melanie Prince and including other denominations, will be held at the Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road, immediately following the laying of the wreaths at 10.55am.

Local organisations and individuals are encouraged to support the parade and service and they are welcome to bear their standards with pride. Serving and retired servicemen are particularly welcome and, as always, will have seats reserved at the front of the hall.

The parade will muster at 10.30am at the bottom off Wesley Avenue and march off promptly at 10.40am.

Those who do not wish to join the parade can go straight to the Community Hall.

Light refreshments, courtesy of the WI (Rhoose branch), will be available at the end of the service.

Coun Jeffrey James

Vale observes silence for Armistice Day

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council is continuing its support for the Royal British Legion by holding a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate Armistice Day, on Monday, November 11.

A short service, along with a two-minute silence, will take place on the Civic Office Forecourt, Barry, in front of the Merchant Seamen Memorial, beginning at 10.45am.

The mayor, along with political leaders and representatives of local organisations, will lay wreaths to commemorate the fallen.

The ceremony is open to all and members of the public are encouraged to attend and pay their respects. The start and end of the silence will be marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

Remembrance Day poem

As the wind blows though the poppy leaves
And a quiet breeze blows through the trees
We remember the men who went to war, who packed up their cases and walked through their doors.
They left their homes and families
Too, and the numbers that returned were only few;
They fought with their enemy until death was so near and a lot of them died with hearts full of fear.
They had laid down their lives that we may have peace and live our lives in a Golden Fleece.
So we must never forget the days of war and the men that died to change the law.
We must think of the past as part of our lives, and Remembrance Day and those that died.

Russell Spencer Downe

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH WILL HONOUR THE HEROES

THE Remembrance Sunday services at St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan Churches in Barry will be rather special this year, as everyone attending will be given a free copy of the 'Active Service Gospel' which was given to every serviceman in the First World War.

This 100th anniversary edition of St John's Gospel has been reprinted to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. The 85-page book is in exactly the same format as given to the soldiers and was designed to fit into their uniform pocket.

From the congregations of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, 33 men lost their lives on active service in the First World War, 28 in World War Two, one in the Korean War in 1952 and one in the Falklands in 1982.

The names of all those who lost their lives are recorded in St Paul's War Memorial porch; they will be read out on Sunday morning and Rector Robert Parrish is inviting all relatives of those who lost their lives, or served, to attend the special Remembrance Services at St Paul's at 10am this Sunday, November 9, or at 8.45am at Merthyr Dyfan Church.

These are the names of the Barry men honoured on the War Memorial at St Paul's Church;

World War One: *Harry Butler; Frederick Burton; Sidney George Bedingfield; Harry Churchill; Maurice Cater; Harold Chamen; John Davies; Percy Edwards; David Charles Grant; James Hutton; Roger Heath; Oswald Hulin; Claude Harding; Paget George Irvine; Christopher Kilby; Harry Jarret Littlehales; William May; Herbert May; Harold Marsh; John Percival Marshall; Arthur Nash; Ernest Phillips; Frederick Bush Parker; Ivor Prince; Cyril Gilmore Stevens; William Smith; Francis Spencer; John Streeter; Fred Streeter; Thomas Davies Williams; Harry Weaver; Victor Wraithman; Eric Whitehouse.*

World War Two: *Rees Henry Barton; Basil Bishton; Roland Butler; Arthur Begley; David Bowen-Jones; James Carthy; Frederick Down; Cyril Ednay; Verdun Green; John Hughes; Barrie Higgins; Raymond Haines; Ian MacGallivray; Donald MacGallivray; William Norman; Frederick Pursall; Alfred Rendell; James Robb; Eric Stocker; Henry Vinnicombe; Percy Williams; George Weaver; Thomas Worthington; James Wells; William Watson; Mervyn Windsor; Clifford Westcott.*

Korean War 1952: *John Seaton.*

Falklands War 1982: *Raymond Gregory Thomas.*

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wishes the poppy appeal every success and is pleased to support this worthy cause.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

AS this year's particularly significant Remembrance Sunday approaches – significant because it marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War One – the experiences of a typical Vale town such as Cowbridge offer a chance to put a human face on the unimaginable fatality statistics that are a tragic feature of the 'Great War'.

Last week, the GEM published the first part of an article detailing the brief lives of the men who are recorded on the town's Cenotaph. The primary source material for this is a historical book, *The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian* by JOSÉ RAWLINS, published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown & Sons of Cowbridge. The book was the result of extensive and painstaking research over five years by the author.

David Howell, the Cowbridge Poppy Appeal organiser, has included sections of the book in the course of compiling the article.

This account of ordinary men, who were transported around the world as the battles raged, and who came to meet their end in foreign fields, was replicated around south Wales, and provides a deeply sobering backdrop to the forthcoming Remembrance ceremonies.

The GEM hopes that telling the story of just a few of the men who fought and died, will inspire residents in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs to support their local Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion was formed in the aftermath of World War One, but its work continues today, helping men and women who made the same sacrifice as those remembered in this centenary year of the Great War.

Thomas Albert John Edwards

Thomas was born in Ystradowen in late 1891. At the time of the 1891 census his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Edwards, were living with her parents Thomas and Mary Sant at Talyfon Castle. Thomas's father Samuel worked for his father-in-law, who was a farmer.

By 1901, father Samuel was a farmer himself and Tom lived at the family farm at Bryndafod in Welsh St Donats. In the 1911 census the family was living at Clawdd-Coch, Pendoylan but now Samuel describes himself as an "estate labourer" and Tom was working as a haulier. Samuel died in early 1917, just before his son.

No records are available of Tom's military service. He was killed in action on April 9, 1917, aged 25, during the 1st Battle of the Scarpe which opened the major offensive launched from a system of tunnels beneath the town of Arras. He has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Arras Memorial.

Owen Evans

Born in Welsh St. Donats in 1892, he was the fourth son of seven (plus one daughter) of the Rev William Edgar Evans, minister of Carmel Congregational Church in Bonvilston, and wife Mary Evans. They lived at The Manse in Llanbethery.

Owen worked for John Hopkins & Sons, builders and monumental masons in Cowbridge, and, aged 18, is described as a sculptor in the 1911 Census.

Owen was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Cowbridge with Aubrey Lloyd Morgan. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour of October 23, 1914.

The Royal Sussex Regiment 7th Battalion, was part of the 12th Eastern Division 36th Brigade. Owen landed at Boulogne in June 1915 and was probably involved in the Battle of Loos at the end of September 1915.

He died in the 1st Battle of the Somme on July 7, 1916, aged 24, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.

Two years later Edgar and Mary Evans suffered the tragic loss of Owen's younger brother Lance Corporal Emrys Morgan Evans.

Apparently, as Emrys had neither lived or worked in Cowbridge, he was not included with Owen on the town memorial.

David Fitzgerald

Born in Llanblethian in mid-1892, David was the second son of John Fitzgerald who was born in Cork, Ireland. John worked as a railway platelayer in 1901 and lived near the Farmers Arms in Aberthin with his Welsh wife Elizabeth and their four children.

By 1911 the family had moved to 5 Aubrey Terrace and David, still living at home, was employed as a mason. The family home was still in Aubrey Terrace in 1918 when David died.

David may have considered himself Irish for he served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from November 1914 and was stationed at Cork. He transferred to the Royal Welsh Regiment in April 1916 so that he could be with his elder brother William.

He also seems to have served in the 2/3rd Cheshire Regiment for a short period before being transferred back to the Welsh Regiment. Confusingly, the Cowbridge war memorial places him in the South Wales Borderers even though his headstone shows him to have been in the Royal Welsh Regiment.

The German spring offensive of 1918 was fought in Picardy over the old battlefield of the Somme, but petered out before reaching the major and vital railway town of Amiens. David was killed on the first day of the Battle of Lys on April 9,1918, aged 25, and his grave is in an extension to the communal cemetery at Beuvry, a town about 3km east of Bethune.

William James

William was born in Cowbridge in 1892. He was the only son of John James of Llysworney and his wife Harriet from Bath, Somerset; William had an older sister, Maud.

The family was living close to the Edmondes Arms in East Village, Cowbridge, at the time of the 1901 census and had moved to Glebe House, Llanblethian, by the time of the 1911 census; William and Maud were still living with their parents in 1911.

In both the 1901 and 1911 census returns father John describes his employment as haycutter, William being similarly employed in 1911.

William enlisted for three years in the Welsh Regiment (2nd Welch) at Cowbridge on November 6,1914. He left for France on February 17, 1915. The 2nd Welch was involved in an attack on Aubers Ridge, which opened on May 9, 1915.

The German defenders were securely entrenched. Artillery bombardment failed to reach its targets and machine-gun fire was deadly and accurate. Within two hours many of the soldiers had been cut down or drowned in the marsh and stream in the area.

William was killed in action on May 9, 1915, aged 23. He has no known grave and his name is engraved on the Welch Regiment panel on the Le Touret Memorial. Over 13,000 names are listed on the memorial of men who died before September 25, 1915.

Albert and Arthur Gibbs

Born in Cowbridge in mid 1896 and mid 1899 respectively, they were the fourth and sixth of nine sons and two daughters of Joseph and Florence Gibbs.

Joseph, who was from Birmingham, was a printer for the Glamorgan Gazette and had moved to Cowbridge in 1895 to set up a printing business with his assistant David Brown at 43, High Street.

In 1901, the Gibbs family was living at 23, Eastgate, Joseph being recorded in the census as a printer, stationer and shopkeeper. In 1911, Albert, aged 14, was working in the family business as a printer's compositor, along with his older siblings Ethel, Walter and Frederick; 12-year-old Arthur was still at school.

Albert enlisted in Bridgend, joining the 16th (Cardiff City) Service Division which was raised in November 1914. Alongside 11th SWB the 'Cardiff Pals' fought their way into Mametz wood.

They lost so many men that after the action the battalion was transferred away from the Somme battlefield to Flanders. Albert was killed in action near Ypres on September 14, 1916. His grave is in Essex Farm Cemetery, only two rows away from William Lane, who was killed in action less than a month earlier.

Arthur – probably after brother Albert's death – enlisted at Cardiff into 9th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The regiment was part of five extremely unfortunate divisions which faced a series of German spring offensives, in 1918 and suffered such heavy losses that the survivors were ordered back to England on June 30, and the battalion was disbanded shortly afterwards.

In July a brief report in the Glamorgan Gazette stated: "After being missing for a considerable time news has been received that Pte Arthur Gibbs is a prisoner of war in Germany."

The Gazette listed six Cowbridge men, all living in Eastgate, as prisoners: J Oakley and his brother A Oakley, brothers Fred and Arthur Gibbs, E Lloyd and Jack Conway.

Sadly, Arthur died in Germany on October 24, 1918. The cause of his death is not known and his grave is in Worms (Hochheim Hill cemetery). Frederick returned home and settled in Maesteg.

Albert and Arthur's brother Harry also served.

Ralph Goulden

Ralph Goulden is not listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as he died a civilian but was as much a casualty of the Great War as all the other men on the memorial.

He was born in Bridgend in late 1893 and was the third son (of a family of six sons and three daughters) of Henry and Jane Goulden. Henry ran a baker's and confectionery shop at 17 High Street in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns. At the time of the 1911 census. Ralph was a postman.

Elder brother Richard had a very distinguished war-time career being awarded both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Military Medal.

Younger brother Edgar served in the Royal Navy and older sister Alice served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

The Glamorgan Gazette in October 1918 carried the report "Edgar Goulden RNR was handed a token of appreciation from the Mayor of Cowbridge to convey to his brother, Ralph Goulden, who lies in a precarious state in his home suffering severely from gas poisoning."

Ralph died in Bettws, Ammanford on June 26, 1919 aged 25.

Ralph's name is on the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour.

Cowbridge cricketers in uniform – J Foulkes, Frank Dunn, Charlie Morgan, Albert Gibbs*, Harold Moynan*, I Pell, BS Bird, Lyn Llewellyn, Jack Dunn*. (* – denotes 'killed in action).*

Benjamin Hayward and Sidney Abraham Hayward

Benjamin and Sidney Hayward were the third and youngest sons of the 11 children of George and Elizabeth Hayward.

George of Cricklade, Wiltshire married Elizabeth Jones of Cowbridge in 1873. In 1881 they were living with their four youngest sons, including Benjamin who was born in late 1877, at the Causeway, Llanblethian.

By 1891 they had moved to Eastgate, Cowbridge. Father George was working as a painter and decorator, Elizabeth a dressmaker; young Benjamin a general labourer. By this time the family were seven sons and two daughters all living at home.

By 1901 the older sons had moved away and George declared in the 1901 census that he was a coffee house owner as well as a decorator. Benjamin enlisted in the Royal Navy in September 1897, signing on for 12 years.

Benjamin was 'stood down' from the Royal Naval Reserve in 1909 after his 12 years' service and worked at the power station at Upper Boat. He was recalled from the Reserve in August 1914 to serve on *HMS Challenger*.

By September 1914, *Challenger* was stationed off the west coast of Africa and played a major part in the successful Franco/British invasion of the German colony of Cameroon. In January 1916, Benjamin was discharged from the navy on grounds of ill health.

He returned to his wife, Ida Margaret Williams, whom he had married in 1914 and who lived at the Broughton shop near Wick. Benjamin died of malaria on January 25, 1916, aged 38, and was buried in the graveyard attached to Wick Unitarian Chapel.

Sidney was born in mid 1892. By 1911, Sidney was the only one of the children still living at home and Elizabeth, still at Eastgate, was running a sweet shop. Sidney is described as in service with a doctor.

Strangely, George does not appear on the 1911 census, although he was still alive and did not pass away until March 1917.

In January 1915, Sidney joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and crossed to France in December that year.

Sidney's division went into action in the Battle of the Somme in July. There were six days of murderous fighting before they captured Mametz Wood, which resulted in huge casualties. The division was then withdrawn from Picardy to Flanders.

Sidney was killed in action on June 24, 1917, aged 25, before the start of the third Battle of Ypres during a German barrage on trenches in front of the Yser Canal. His grave is in the Bard Cottage cemetery near Boezinghe, in the northern sector of the Ypres salient.

All 11 Hayward siblings served their country in the Great War. Eight of the brothers enlisted in the army, Benjamin served in the Royal Navy, and the two sisters Beatrice and Bertha served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

Writer's acknowledgements

Extensive research for this article was carried out by José Rawlins and is included in her book The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian by José Rawlins and published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown and Sons Ltd in 2008. The publication is available via the Cowbridge History Society.

I must congratulate José on her book, it is a very informative publication. A number of passages from the book have been included in this work and others have been paraphrased. I am grateful for the opportunity to quote her excellent text.

I consider myself fortunate that records and sources not available to José when she carried out her research, plus much improved computing power, were available to me at this later date and, probably made my task much easier.

As a couple of names appear on both the Cowbridge and Llanblethian memorials I took the approach of combining the two. I have also produced the list in straightforward alphabetical order and tended to ignore rank, which seems somewhat inappropriate some 100 years on.

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BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

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Camaraderie and great memories are part of being a choir member!

by GARETH ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN OF BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

To be celebrating 112 years of unbroken music-making is an achievement of which Barry Male Voice Choir is justifiably very proud.

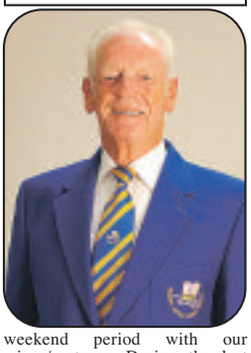
To have maintained an active membership against the competition afforded by the arrival of modern entertainments and technology is no mean feat.

One of the main reasons for this longevity is the sheer pleasure choristers derive from being part of a group of like minded men and being able to produce a musical sound which warms the soul and gives enormous pleasure to listeners.

Another very important aspect of Barry Male Voice Choir's operations is that almost all the concerts we perform are in support of a charity fundraiser. The pleasure of being able to assist a charity, while at the same doing something which we thoroughly enjoy, is immeasurable.

The choir also enjoys a healthy social aspect with the majority of concerts being followed by a gathering in a local hostelry for some 'refreshment' and inevitably a few more songs.

At least once each year, the choir will travel away over a long-weekend period with our wives/partners. During the last few years we have visited Stirling, Cockermouth, Beauvais (France), Gouda (Netherlands) and have only recently returned from a great weekend in Falmouth.



Next year the choir is off to Rheinfelden in Germany to re-cement the links with Barry's twin town. Closer to home we have performed at weddings, and venues as diverse as The Millennium Centre in Cardiff and Barry Rugby Club.

To ensure the continuation of this fine tradition of music-making and social enjoyment, we are keen to recruit as many new members as we can.

There is no requirement to have the ability to read music or to speak Welsh, and there will be no terrifying 'voice test' to have to pass.

The range of music we perform is huge, and I can guarantee that there will be something in our repertoire that you will know.

I can also guarantee the warmest of welcomes to any new members. I have been privileged to have been the choir chairman for the last four years, a position which has given me great pleasure.

What would give me even more pleasure is to see the choir's numbers swelled by the arrival of some new members.

So why not come and join us at the first of our 'Taster' sessions in the West End Club, Barry on November 10 for a sing along, buffet and a pint. See you there!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers, Barry Town Council, the Vale Council and VCVS for their support.

President's invitation!

THE choir's president Gordon Mudford is issuing an invitation to potential choristers:

As president of Barry Male Voice Choir, I extend a warm invitation to the men of Barry and the Vale to join us. The choir has been in existence for the last 112 years.

Throughout this period, the choir has served the cultural interests of the town and the Vale with distinction.

It has also provided tens of thousands of pounds to various charitable organisations both locally and nationally.

The choir also initiated the twinning of Barry with the German town of Rheinfelden in 1967. This is still enjoyed today. The choir is visiting Rheinfelden again next year (2015).

We are currently looking for new members to ensure the continuity of the above activities. Please come along to our recruiting event on 10th November in the West End Club Barry at 7.30pm.

This taster evening is intended as an easy introduction to the choir and male voice singing. Choir members and the musical team assure you of a warm welcome. Hopefully resulting in an enjoyable evening of singing and eventual membership of the choir. I look forward to meeting you on the night.

Best wishes, Gordon Mudford.

The choir president Gordon Mudford.

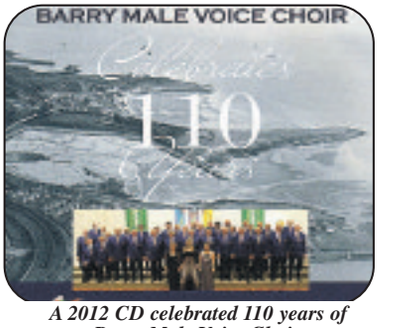
Choir 'fills my soul with joy!

The youngest choir member is Alex Harries (30) who joined the choir when he moved to the town.

Alex is an actor whose recent roles include a policeman in the Hinterland/Y Gwyll series broadcast on BBC/ S4C. respectively.

He explained: "I've been a member of BMVC for over a year and it's the best decision I've made since moving to Barry.

"Singing gives me an opportunity to express myself in a way that my job as an actor doesn't allow. Every rehearsal I'm able to attend and every concert I perform fills my soul with joy."



A 2012 CD celebrated 110 years of Barry Male Voice Choir.

BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR
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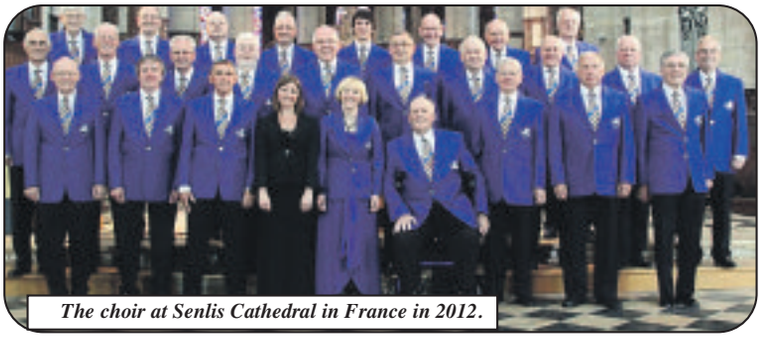
BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR MAKES WAVES WITH A FUN CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

ABOVE: As you can see, Barry Male Voice Choir has been having some fun in publicising its recruitment campaign.



The choir at Senlis Cathedral in France in 2012.

Dorothy getting the best out of the tenor section at a recent choir rehearsal.

BARRY Male Voice Choir has launched an engaging and humorous recruitment campaign that has caught the attention of the general public.

It's even been boosted by the support of top Welsh celebrities such as Michael Sheen, Roy Noble and Derek Brockway.

The choir has produced a series of invitations and posters publicising their special taster session for potential new members to be held in the West End Club. St Nicholas Road, Barry, (CF62 6QY) on November 10 at 7.30pm.

The chairman Gareth Roberts explained: "You don't have to be a trained singer – if you can sing in tune, you can sing in the choir.

"We are keen to encourage more men from Barry, and the rest of the Vale, to join the choir and everyone will be made really welcome at the taster evening.

"We launched the campaign on Facebook and Twitter and the response has been so encouraging it's taken us by surprise.

"The actor Michael Sheen re-tweeted our post to his 200,000 followers. It has also had support from weatherman Derek Brockway, a native of Barry, BBC presenter Sian Williams and a number of Welsh sports personalities."

So what exactly is a taster evening in 'choir terms'?

Gareth said: "It is a gentle and convivial introduction to male voice singing. It is for men who are interested in singing, but who haven't sung before or who are nervous about joining a choir.

"Guests will not be expected to sing on their own. The evening will focus on singing.

"If people want to join after the taster session, a series of practices for new choristers has been arranged.

"These will be held from November 17 once a week for 10 weeks on Mondays between 6.30 and 7.30pm at Trinity Hall, Trinity St, Barry, (CF627EH).

"After 10 weeks, you can join the main choir. It is hoped that new choristers will be able to attend at least one rehearsal a week out of two.

"Anyone unable to attend the taster session will still be welcomed at practices during these introductory 10 weeks."

For more information, see the choir website at www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk (or telephone 07925878669).

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Elaine's £300 smoking saving

ABOVE: Elaine Nelsen with the Welsh rugby stars.

OCTOBER 28 marked the final day of 'Stoptober' – the 28 day stop smoking challenge – which has seen thousands of smokers across Wales attempt to stop smoking.

Stop Smoking Wales has been offering advice and support, and there were nine 'local heroes' from throughout Wales who have been documenting their quit attempt throughout October.

The campaign has been supported by the Welsh Rugby Union who surprised the local heroes with tickets to the autumn international opener, Wales v Australia which will be held at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on November 8.

George North, Taulupe Faletau and Justin Tipuric presented a pair of tickets to each local hero at the Welsh Rugby squad's training ground at the Vale Resort.

Elaine Nelsen, 64, from Bridgend was among the local heroes who picked up their reward.

Elaine, who has saved £333 and has not smoked 1,026 cigarettes since taking on the Stoptober challenge, said: "I'm feeling great and people keep telling me they can notice a difference already in my complexion and skin colour.

"I'm proud to have got to day 28 and I can't wait until next Stoptober when I'll be able to say I've been smoke free for a year – onwards and upwards!"

Farmers' charity walk proves to be a great success

FARMERS' Union of Wales members and friends covered all 871 miles of the Wales Coast Path during a huge sponsored walk to raise funds for children's hospice charities, Tŷ Hafan and Tŷ Gobaith.

The challenging event took place in September, when teams of union members, staff and friends embarked on various walks along the whole length of the Wales Coast Path to boost funds for both charities, which have been chosen for FUW president Emyr Jones' 2014 charity appeal.

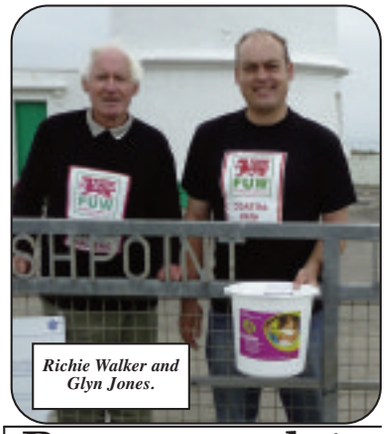
"Our Glamorgan members really backed us all the way with the challenge and, between us, we managed to walk the entire length of Glamorgan's coastal line,124 miles in total," said Rachel Saunders, county executive officer for FUW Glamorgan.

"We had been praying for dry weather in the run up to the challenge and it turned out to be a beautiful day, making the walk even more enjoyable."

"Our county chairman Richard Walker literally walked the extra mile for us, completing 23 miles on the day and collecting money from generous farmers attending a ploughing event on a local farm adjacent to the coastal path, as well as donations from charitable members of the public enjoying the walk."

"I would like to thank everyone who took part in the challenge, donated towards the cause and generally helped out with lifts on the day, as you have helped FUW Glamorgan raise over £700 for Ty Hafan and Ty Gobaith."

Jonathan and Jane Jones.



Richie Walker and Glyn Jones.

Rangers rush to beat the winter!

PORTHKERRY Park rangers, in partnership with Porthkerry Wildlife Group, Natural Resources Wales, and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, are hurrying to create two new wildflower areas before the weather gets too cold.

"Two small areas of meadow have been cut, scarified, raked and then sown with a range of wildflower seeds. The seeds have either been donated or collected from other areas of the park or other wildflower sites nearby," said ranger Mel Stewart.

"The rangers and volunteers have been out collecting seeds all summer long. We can't wait until next summer when we hope to see the meadow a mass of beautiful flowers that will help attract bees and butterflies throughout the summer."

Anyone interested in joining Porthkerry Wildlife group, or help out with future conservation projects ,should contact the ranger service on 01446 733589, or email Porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for November 3:

1st Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 73.81 per cent, 2nd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 67.86, 3rd= Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 55.95 and Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 55.95.

LE

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Local choir sings at WMC

THE St Donat's Atlantic Chorale appeared on the Glanfa stage recently.

A sizeable audience gathered to hear an hour long programme which showcased the range of the choir's repertoire.

Passers-by were drawn in by the rousing strains of 'Pastime with good company' written by King Henry the Eighth and stayed to enjoy a musical journey including Vaughan Williams, Cardiff's own Ivor Novello, to finish with Queen and Carly Simon.

The next time the choir will be in action is on December 7 in the 'Glass Room' at St Donat's Arts Centre when the rarely performed (in English) Brahms' 'Marienleider' forms the first part of the concert, while the second part will be a mix of traditional carols, along with other seasonal music and readings.

CE

Rikishakers in King Square for Noah's Ark

IMAGES by KIM LACNY

ON Halloween, October 31, the Rikishakers demonstrated their keep fit routines in King Square, Barry – with a charitable purpose in mind.

The event was in aid of Noah's Ark Appeal and the aim is to raise £10,000 to go towards two machines in the children's hospital.

A spokeswoman for the group said: "It was a brilliant night and we want to thank Jordon and Craig who arranged it all at short notice."

Orange Wallet Scheme offers disabled people vital support

ON Friday, October 31, South Wales Police hosted an event to launch the 'Orange Wallet Scheme' aimed to improve the experiences of disabled people travelling on public transport.

Staff from Arriva Cymru and First Bus Cymru met representatives from the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People and other local organisations to share experiences and discuss ways to improve travel for those with special access requirements.

The wallet immediately establishes that the holder has a disability and the leaflet inside is designed to communicate the assistance they require.

Sergeant Angela Bennett said: "These events are hugely important for networking among vulnerable groups, to raise awareness of any particular issues that we as officers need to tackle. This is also an opportunity to work with people to raise their confidence and trust in the police so they can report incidents know they will be taken seriously."

Nathan Foy, engagement officer for Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "Like audio announcements, the orange wallet could give some blind and partially sighted people more confidence to travel on public transport, knowing that drivers and staff are trained to recognise the card and understand the needs of those who carry one".

Vigil outside hospital

MEMBERS of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children held a two hour vigil during visiting hours (6pm – 8pm) to remember with sorrow the passing of the Abortion Act on October 27, 1967.

A spokesman said: "The vigil was held outside a hospital because the NHS pays for 98 per cent of all abortions. It was especially encouraging to welcome Father Fuse from Cardiff to the vigil.

"Also present were Paul Botto, former development officer for Wales and his wife Diane, Greg Stewart and Ceri McCarthy, chairman of the Wales region, Tony Kells, Rita Costello, Kotalin Naray and Ailsa Lloyd from Barry, Diane Jones and Debbie Pitt from Penarth and Janet and Mike Thomas from Dinas Powys.

"The weather was fine and mild, the cars passing by showed appreciation by toots and waves and our candles added both colour and a sombre note of remembrance, together with our banners which made our message clear."

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Don't Commit Enviro-Crime!

The Vale's Cabinet member for the Environment and Visible Services, Councillor Rob Curtis

"Cleaning up fly-tipping costs us all money, the household duty of care regulations are not there to scare people.

They are there to help us work together to combat the blight of fly-tipping, which can be dangerous and potentially harmful to health. It also spoils our enjoyment of the surroundings and can cause serious pollution of the environment."

Vale of Glamorgan Council Enforcement and Compliance Team:

Our team work closely with police and the community to educate, raise awareness of fly tipping and where needed use their enforcement powers to clean up the streets.

Denny White, Senior Enforcement Officer said "Fly-tipping in the Vale blocks access to our lanes. It could be an emergency vehicle trying to get through. Please help us send a clear message that this practice is wrong."

Brian Close explains, "Waste carriers can't use our household waste recycling centres but some traders tell residents they can. Remember, if you're paying them money they are a business, and part of their costs should be used to correctly dispose of your waste."

As Steve from the section adds "Other businesses like supermarkets and bakeries can't use the free sites we provide for residents, so why should these people?"

Thinking of clearing out the garage or shed; having some work done in the house or tidying up your garden?

If you are employing someone to undertake these household jobs for you, help us tackle fly-tipping by reading the following information.

Have you heard of the Household Waste Duty of Care (2005)?

The regulations place a duty of care on the householder to take reasonable measures to ensure that household waste produced on their property is transferred by a registered waste carrier to an authorised disposal centre.

What does this mean?

If you pay anyone, such as, a builder, gardener, or someone who simply calls in and offers to remove waste for you – the law states that **you are responsible for what happens to YOUR waste, once it leaves YOUR home.**

You could be fined up to £5000 in a Magistrate's Court, even more in a Crown Court, if you fail to take reasonable measures to check that:

- **operators are legitimate waste carriers**
- **your waste will be disposed of at an authorised site**
- **You get a duty of care note from the carrier**

Remember the Nine, Avoid a Fine...

1. **Check if the person or company is genuine and reputable (internet searches or recommendations can both help);**
2. **Remember, if a trader is not a registered waste carrier, there may be no guarantee that your waste will be disposed of legally and it could be fly-tipped;**
3. **Ensure the firm is a registered waste carrier and insist on seeing their paperwork;**
4. **If they claim to be registered but do not have paperwork, telephone Natural Resources Wales: 0300 065 3000 who can verify their details;**
5. **Make a note of their waste carrier's number (if they cannot provide these details you should refuse their service);**
6. **Ask where the person or company you are employing is proposing to take your waste. This cannot be one of the two household waste recycling centres in the Vale;**
7. **Record the registration number of any vehicle removing waste from your home;**
8. **Pay by cheque as payments can be traced if problems should occur at some later stage. If they insist on cash, simply refuse their service;**
9. **Request a headed notepaper receipt.**

Follow the council: @VOGCouncil

Vale of Glamorgan Life

VALE of GLAMORGAN

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Don't Forget

...you can take your household waste items to our recycling centres in the Vale...

- Barry Household Waste Recycling Centre, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, CF63 3RF
- Llandow Household Waste Recycling Centre, Llandow Industrial Estate, Gluepot Road, CF71 7PB

Alternatively you can arrange for free collection of certain bulky items from your home. Just contact Visible Services on 01446 700111 or email us for more information: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The Facts about Fly-tipping:

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste; it is blight on our towns and countryside and causes a threat to humans and to wildlife.

Each year 36,000 tonnes of waste is reported being fly-tipped in Wales at a cost to the tax payer of £2.1 million to clear up.

Fly-tipping is a crime that carries fines of up to £50,000 or imprisonment.

FLY-TIPPING ACTION WALES

TACLO TIPIO CYMRU

Grant for £191,730 given green light

ARTS COUNCIL IN BOOST FOR MEMO ARTS CENTRE DIGITAL CINEMA PROJECT

THE Arts Council of Wales Capital Lottery has said it will provide a grant of £191,730 to support the Memo Arts Centre's project of delivering a digital cinema conversion.

A spokeswoman explained: "The Memo has a long established history as a cultural hub for the people of Barry and beyond. As a registered charity, the Memo relies greatly on its funders and its audiences to help and support the development of the venue, its programme and its future success.

"Since the closure of the only cinema in Barry, we have been working towards securing cinema at the Memo for everyone to enjoy. The Memo currently delivers regular weekly screenings that include blockbusters, specialised world and foreign language films, and family movies on Saturdays and during school holidays – but alas, not as a fully digital cinema.

"Since starting our CINE-MEMO film programme in January 2013, we have screened over 100 mainstream films, alongside our specialised films programme which is supported by Ffilm Cymru.

"New digital cinema equipment will also mean we can bring exciting live streaming productions and events to the Memo stage, like opera, National Theatre, Globe Theatre and RSC events along with BFI archive screenings as well as the new release blockbusters, which are not available locally."

The spokeswoman went on: "In October 2013, the Memo provided the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) Lottery Capital Division with an expression of interest for capital funding as part of their Phase 2 Digital Cinema Conversion project.

"The Memo has recently received the wonderful and exciting news that our grant application to secure this major investment has been successful."

The grant will enable the Memo to purchase a new digital screen, digital servers and projector, along with digital surround sound and to build a new projection booth.

Bus stop to nowhere angers local resident

The (closed) bus stop.

LOCAL resident Julie Turner has called on the local council and bus operator to end the saga that sees a purpose-built bus stop situated next to the Crematorium on Port Road East in Barry closed to buses.

The bus stop, costing thousands of pounds to build, has not been used for over a year as it has been deemed unsafe by Cardiff Bus, the local operator. Mrs Turner met with Vale MP Alun Cairns to highlight the issue that has dragged on for over a year. Mr Cairns has previously written to both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff Bus to seek a solution to a problem that sees residents being forced to walk past a purpose built covered stop to catch a local bus.

Mrs Turner from Pencoedtre, said: "I am very angry that a bus stop, supposedly built to help local residents like myself, cannot be used. It must have cost tens of thousands to build, yet the buses that I use simply drive past it. We have to walk a much greater distance, across a very busy fast moving road, to what is nothing more than a stop gap."

Mr Cairns said: "I contacted the local authority and the bus company many months ago, and the bus stop is still not in use. The current situation is frankly ridiculous, some *minor remedial works would get the bus stop open and I see no reason for the delay."*

The Vale Council's Michael Clogg, explained that the bus stop was constructed as part of the recent Taylor Wimpey development opposite.

"It serves the 96, 96A & X91 Cardiff bus services as well as the T9 Cardiff Airport Express and a number of school bus services.

"However, Cardiff Bus have advised that due to ongoing highway safety concerns they are unable to use this new bus stop at the present time.

"The council is currently working with Cardiff Bus to address these safety concerns at the earliest opportunity, but in the meantime, Cardiff Bus services can be accessed via the bus stop facility which exists around 200 metres further west on Port Road."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MUSIC at Lunchtime in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth takes place every Monday, from 1pm – 2pm. Entry free, teas and coffees provided. Music on Monday, November 10 will be supplied by Peter Fielding (clarinet), Philip Hayman (viola) and Alison Dite (piano). The programme will include works by Beethoven, Sullivan and Bruch.

'Out of Hours' coffee time

DIVERSE Cymru provides a free coffee morning at Barry Library (Philip John Room) on Tuesday, November 11 from 10am – 12pm.

Members of the public will be able to find out more about GP Out of Hours sevices in the Vale and meet the GP Out of Hours team.

It's also a chance for people to share their views about the service, ask questions and enjoy some free refreshments.

Booking isn't necessary; but to find out more, telephone Diverse Cymru, on 029 2036 8888.

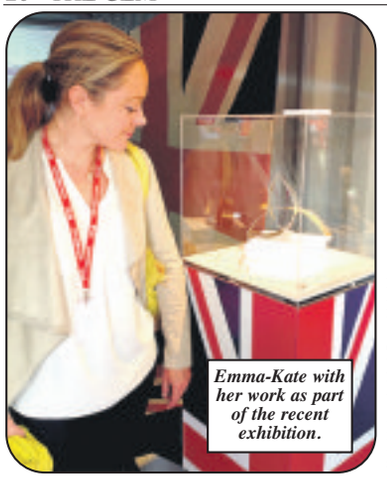
RECYCLING NETS ARE AN ALTERNATIVE TO LIDS

A RECYCLING net may be of use if you have a recycling box. They cost just £1 from the Civic, Barry or Alps, Wenvoe offices.

As Waste Management and Cleansing employee Craig Phillips demonstrates they may help contain your recycling and hopefully help put an end to any wind strewn items in your road.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, explained: "Nets are a great alternative to lids (which may blow down streets), as they can be tied to boxes – there are small holes on the sides.

"This allows you to cover the contents of your box. Unlike a lid, a net allows you to overfill the contents of your boxes too, and does not necessarily limit how much you can recycle each week."



Emma-Kate with her work as part of the recent exhibition.

Cowbridge jeweller represents Wales in UKTI's 'Great Design Week Mexico'

LOCAL designer jeweller, Emma-Kate Francis, was invited to represent the Wales' creative industries sector with the Welsh Government and UKTI on a creative industries knowledge transfer mission to Mexico recently.

UKTI asked Emma-Kate to exhibit her work as part of the 'British Great Design Week Container' exhibition, and at the launch party at the British Ambassador's residence, alongside Lawrence Llewelyn Bowen.

Emma-Kate explained: "It was an amazing opportunity to partake in Mexico's Design Week and represent Wales! It was fabulous to meet other creatives, too. Mexico has a thriving hub of design talent and the trip really inspired me. There might be some exciting collaborations in the future!"

The contact details for Emma-Kate are: Atelier Emma-Kate Francis, 1st Floor (above High Society), 85 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7AA; tel: 01446 771656; email info@emmakatefrancis.com; Facebook/Twitter/Pinterstest/Linkedin emmakatefrancis.

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In Business Update

Five easy tips to boost confidence

CONFIDENCE is something we were all born with – life can sometimes dent it, leaving us feeling overwhelmed and unable to do the things we want to do.

Here are some simple but powerful tips to help develop more confidence.

1. Use your body to create the feelings of confidence. Stand or sit straight, shoulders back with head up. This alters body chemistry and inspires confidence.

2. Prepare for success; visualise how you would like a particular situation to be. Spend a few minutes daily picturing yourself in these positive scenarios, being confident. Pay special attention to the minor details, too.

3. Let go. Confident people are happy when they know they have given it their all. Ensure you prepare, practice, visualise.

4: Accept things can go wrong. Confident people move on.

5: Consider when you have been confident. Notice your thoughts and feelings and what was said and done. From here, create your own template for confidence.

So which tip will you try first and when? For more information about confidence building, contact Sue on 07795 964 066; or email: cardiffhypnotherapy solutions@gmail.com.

Sue Pitman

HPD, DHP, MNCH(Reg)

Clinical Hypnotherapist/ Psychotherapist

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It's LBD time at Samantha B!

IT'S that time of year again! For most of us, the run-up to Christmas is an exciting time: lunches, parties and family get togethers, the last thing to worry about is what you're going to wear.

At Samantha B, we have everything – from 'the little black dress' to sequin jumpers – that will fill you with confidence and make you feel fabulous!

OLSEN has made a welcome return to the area and the fantastic Mona jeans are flying out – we have the final delivery this week, so if you've missed them call in.

We also have a fantastic range of scarves and accessories, that finish any outfit! And make a great present for those hard to buy for friends and family! Call in and receive 10 per cent off!

Samantha B Ladies Fashions & Accessories

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East meets West in the Bridgend indoor market

ARTISAN Pimon Leigh of Tied Flowers has specialised in creating custom handmade clay and silk floral designs and other craft gifts since 2005.

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Hailing from Thailand, and living in Wales, Pimon effortlessly blends eastern and western designs to handcraft unique, beautiful creations out of clay and silk.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

BYRON IS A MASTER FITTER!

BYRON TERRETT who runs the fitting side of Llandow Carpet Studio, was born in Llantwit Major and has lived there all his life.

Byron is an NICF-qualified Master Fitter; plus a Quick Step trained Master Installer. This means you can be assured that any flooring purchased from the company is installed to the highest standards.

BYRON TERRETT.

New law firm in Llantwit

A LAW firm specialising in medical negligence compensation claims has opened in Llantwit Major.

The specialist firm, based in Commercial Street, acts on a 'No-Win, No-Fee' basis.

NHSlawyer's senior solicitor is a Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and a senior Associate of the Royal Society of Medicine.

All staff are legally qualified and members of the Law Society. The firm provides a free claim evaluation service.

NHSlawyer handles the following types of claim: birth injury; cerebral palsy; misdiagnosis; wrong treatment; missed fractures, and delayed treatment.

Contact solicitor Richard Dykes at NHSlawyer to see if you are entitled to compensation and have a confidential, no obligation consultation. For more information, go to: info@NHSlawyer.co.uk ; or www.NHSlawyer.co.uk; or telephone 01446 791811.

NHSlawyer

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Fun Foundations pick up a Highly Commended award!

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk

10% discount for each additional sibling registered. Childcare vouchers

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Wales Pre-school Providers Association

Foundations Day Nursery

FUN Foundations have been awarded 'highly commended' status by the Wales Pre-School Providers Association Quality Assurance Award.

The whole Fun Foundations team are extremely proud of this achievement, as this is the highest level of attainment for this award.

They feel that this reflects how hard they work to provide the best wrap-around childcare in the area.

Due to demand, the nursery has varied its terms of registraiton with the CSSIW, to increase the number of places for children under two years from 15 to 21.

If you are thinking about childcare for the New Year, please give the team a call, as spaces are limited!

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We are specialists in the supply and fitting of CORMAR Carpets and QUICK STEP Laminates and Engineered Woods.

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A lot of people have been put off laminates thanks to cheap DIY products. However, when you see the Laminate stand in our showroom you may change your mind.

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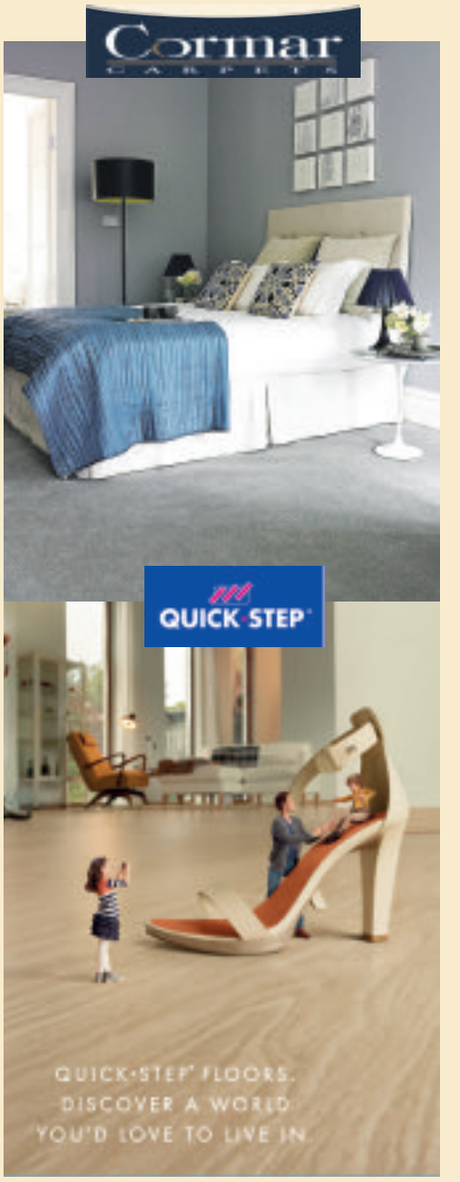

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Aspire2Own in the Vale of Glamorgan

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

About the Aspire2Own scheme...

What is Aspire2Own?

Aspire2Own was created by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and our partner Housing Associations in recognition that first time buyers can often find it difficult to afford a home of their own. The scheme enables people to register their interest in low cost home ownership properties, either now or in the next few years.

Aspire2Own provides a helping hand onto the property ladder for people who are financially stable and able to raise a mortgage, but unable to get onto the housing ladder without assistance. This may be because of the amount of mortgage or deposit required to buy on the open market.

What are low cost home ownership properties?

The low cost home ownership properties available through Aspire2Own are developed in partnership between the Council and Registered Social Landlords.

Most low cost home ownership properties operate on a 'shared equity' basis, which offers first time buyers the opportunity to purchase a property at a lower than market value. An equity share is retained by a Registered Social Landlord at no extra cost to the buyer. This reduces the amount of mortgage required to purchase the property, making it more affordable. When finances allow, the purchaser can staircase at any time up to full ownership.

Depending on where the developments are located, there will be a minimum and maximum income level set. This is done to ensure that applicants can afford the mortgage required, but also to restrict the scheme to households who are unable to buy on the open market.

Where are these properties available?

Properties are most often available on new housing developments. This could be on housing sites built by market house builders or by a Housing Association.

In the last couple of years Aspire2Own has had low cost home ownership properties, both flats and houses, available in Penarth, St Mary Church, Cowbridge and Barry.

Next year there will be low cost home ownership properties available on the following developments:

- Penarth Heights, Penarth
- The Hedgerows, Barry
- St Canna's Green (Fferm Goch), Llangan
- Channel Heights, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point

There are more developments planned for the future in locations across the Vale. If there are housing developments planned in your local area, it is worth contacting Aspire2Own for more information on the low cost home ownership properties available.

Will properties be available in the rural Vale?

On average rural house prices are 40% higher than urban areas, and whilst household earnings are also often higher, many still find it difficult to afford properties on the open market.

In response to this, the Council aims to secure low cost home ownership properties on housing developments in the rural Vale. Priority for these properties is given to local people through the development of local sales policies. This enables local people to remain in the rural communities they grew up in, work in and contribute to.

"Aspire2Own provides a helping hand onto the property ladder"

Who can register with Aspire2Own?

Anyone can apply to Aspire2Own, as this is simply a register of people interested in low cost home ownership.

By joining Aspire2Own you are not obliged to apply for any properties which become available and there is no limit on how long you can remain on the Aspire2Own register.

When low cost home ownership properties are available there are eligibility criteria which apply. For example applicants need to:

- Live or work in the Vale, or have a valid local connection
- Be able to raise a mortgage, but unable to afford to buy on the open market.

Currently, the scheme is only available to first time buyers; however we will consider the eligibility criteria on a site-by-site basis, so people who have owned a property before are still able to register with Aspire2Own.

Contact Aspire2Own

Phone... (01446) 709476

Online... www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/aspire2own

Email... housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Letter... Vale of Glamorgan Council
Alps Depot
Quarry Road
Wenvoe
CF5 6AA

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Hwylusydd Tai Gwledig
Rural Housing Enabler

Rural Housing Enabler
Elisa Faulkner
01446 709237
efaulkner@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

How do I register to Aspire2Own?

To register you need to fill in the Aspire2Own form. The form is available online or as a paper copy. If you need any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

What's next once I have registered?

We will inform you when properties become available in the area you are interested in. You can then choose whether to apply to purchase a property.

If you do wish to be considered for an available property we will send you further information and an application pack.

The information collected by Aspire2own, about where people want to live, the size of property they would like and their income will also help the Council to future plan for new low cost home ownership properties in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

Arthur Wynne Jones

He was born in Llanfyllin in Montgomeryshire and may have moved to south Wales to work in the Glamorganshire coalfield. He enlisted in Pontypridd where 1/5th Welch Regiment had its headquarters.

Arthur was probably involved in building coastal defences in readiness for an anticipated German invasion in East Anglia. His connection with Cowbridge is yet to be discovered.

Along with the Dunn brothers Arthur subsequently left on the SS Huntsgreen, and with eight other grossly overloaded troopships spent three sweltering weeks to steam across the Mediterranean Sea for an assault landing at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli peninsular.

The battalion was ordered to take Scimitar Hill. This was the same ill-fated attack that claimed the lives of Jack and Frank Dunn of Llanblethian, and Arthur also lost his life there.

Arthur Wynne Jones and the two Dunn brothers have no known graves but are commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the end of the Gallipoli peninsular.

William Easton Lane

William Eaton Lane was born in 1893 in Cowbridge. He was the eldest of five sons (and one daughter) of Sidney and Mary Lane, who lived at 6, Westgate Street, Cowbridge. In 1911 William was working as a railway clerk.

He enlisted at Newport joining the South Wales Borderers, trained at Colwyn Bay and arrived in France on active service on December 4, 1915. He was involved in action at the Somme the following July.

The Welsh Division, of which the SWB was part, suffered enormous casualties at Mametz Wood and was withdrawn from the front line and transferred to Flanders.

Welsh troops were not involved in any major offensive near Ypres, but normal trench duty was always dangerous and William was killed in action on August 23, 1916 aged 23. His grave is in Essex Farm cemetery north of Ypres.

Charles Lewis

Charles was born in Cowbridge in 1898. He was the only son of Alfred and Elizabeth Lewis and the family lived at Croft Street (then known as Taff Street) in 1901.

By 1911 the family had moved to Aberthin Road and Charles was older brother to Florence and Esther. Father Alfred was a plasterer.

Charles enlisted at Bridgend, joining the Royal Field Artillery but later transferred to the 'Tanks' which was originally the Heavy Section of the Machine Gun Corps before being renamed the Tank Corps in June 1916. These new caterpillar tracked vehicles first came into action in September 1916.

Charles Lewis died of wounds on July 23, 1916, aged only 17. His grave is in the British cemetery at Roye, south east of Amiens.

Frederick Charles Lord

Fred was born at Brooke, a Norfolk village about five miles south of Norwich on July 10, 1891. He was the second of three sons of Henry John and Maria Lord who in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns were living in Norfolk.

It appears that prior to enlisting in the army at Cardiff, probably in 1914, Fred was Police Constable 634 in the Glamorgan Constabulary and was based in Cowbridge.

He was following in his father's footsteps as father Henry was a Superintendent of Police in 1911.

His army record shows he was sent to France on October 5, 1914, but other information indicates his division landed at Zeebrugge on October 7, suggesting he was in 1st Battalion. They saw action at Ypres with the loss of all but four officers and 200 men.

Fred died of wounds on September 14, 1916, and is buried in an extension to Corbie Communal Cemetery about 15km east of Amiens.

The Glamorgan Gazette wrote about him on September 29, 1916: "When stationed at Cowbridge he won the respect of everyone, his attention to duty, his unassuming disposition and genial personality made for him a host of friends."

His name appears on the Roll of Honour of the Glamorgan Constabulary.

Morris James Marsden

Morris was born in Silian, Cardiganshire, in 1895. He was the youngest of three sons of John and Mary Ann Marsden. There were also six daughters and the family lived in Rhydybannau, a large farm south of Cribyn in both 1901 and 1911.

There is no known record of his living in Cowbridge but a member of the Marsden family has confirmed that before his enlistment, he had been employed at one of the three banks then flourishing in Cowbridge; the London provincial (now Barclays), the Metropolitan Bank of England & Wales (HSBC) or the National Provincial (Nat West), so in all probability he did live in the town.

Little is also known of his military career. He was a member of the Glamorgan Yeomanry, and embarked for France in March 1917.

He was killed in action during the Battle of the Menin Road on September 25, 1917, aged 22, but has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Tyne Cott memorial north east of Ypres.

Arthur Stuart Miles

Arthur was born in Cowbridge in 1896.

He was the third son of four (and one daughter) of Frederick Augustus and Wilmot Agnes Miles. In 1901 the family lived at either 4 or 6 High Street, where Arthur's father had a grocery shop.

Father Frederick died in 1905 but Mrs Miles continued managing the business and was still doing so in 1915. Arthur was assisting her in the business at the time of the 1911 census.

Only just 18 when war was declared, Arthur must have volunteered for the army almost immediately; he enlisted at Newport, choosing to join 1st Monmouthshire, maybe because uniforms, rifles and training were acquired more quickly by enlisting in a territorial battalion than in one of Kitchener's New Army battalions.

Arthur was sent to France in June 1915. He may have been a member of a Pioneer battalion, assigned responsibility for trench maintenance, drainage, road building and light railway construction.

Pioneers were trained soldiers and in addition to this work were used in both attack and defence. Arthur was killed in action near the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13, 1915, aged 19.

His grave is in the Arras Road cemetery in the village of Roclincourt between Lens and Lille.

David Miles

David was the eldest of the 10 children of David and Angelina Miles. He was born in 1897 in Cadoxton, Barry.

After leaving school at 14, he worked at Ysguborgoch Farm, St Andrews Major, moving a year later with the farmer, Mr Jones, to Hollybush Farm on Stalling Down.

Early in 1913 the Miles family moved from Eastbrook, Dinas Powis, where they lived at the time of the 1911 census, to live at Rock House and then to The Malthouse, Llanblethian, from where David enlisted on September 4, 1914. He was three months short of his 17th birthday, still only a boy, whose prize possessions were his Raleigh bicycle and a mouth organ.

David went to France on January 11, 1915, and when he was killed in action on May 9, 1915, was two years under the age for military service overseas.

He died at Richebourg, St Vaast, probably in the same failed attack on Aubers ridge in which William James died. David has no known grave. His name is on Le Touret Memorial.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

FREE Hearing Tests

Throughout November at Scott Wroe Hearing Penarth

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Throughout November, we are providing free hearing tests.

This is a great way to find out if you have a hearing loss. If you already have a hearing aid you are also quite welcome to come along and have it checked at the centre and to see what we have to offer. You may be quite surprised!

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For more information or to arrange your appointment Please call

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"I would thoroughly recommend Scott to anyone thinking of buying a hearing aid. He is extremely kind, patient and efficient. Thank you Scott and Laura for your incredible service."

Mrs G . Mayo-Evans

"I can't thank Scott enough for his excellent, kind and caring service. Without his professional help and advice my world would be a silent one "

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"Many thanks for your wonderful after sales service over and above the call of duty!"

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"I cannot speak highly enough of the help, attention and personal care Scott has given me and I would highly recommend him to all who have a hearing loss."

Mr J Hall

"I would recommend Scott Wroe Hearing Centre to anyone who is missing quality of life as a result of hearing loss"

David Burr

"I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."

Mrs J Thorpe

PRESIDENT'S BALL IS A STUNNING SUCCESS FOR PROSTATE CYMRU

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
01656 662324

A RECENT event to raise funds for Prostate Cymru – the Cowbridge-based charity – raised a stunning £40,000.

It was about a year ago when David Brace, OBE, became president of the charity, and to mark the end of his first year in office, he organised the inaugural 'Presidents Ball' at The Tower Hotel, Briton Ferry, to raise funds for the treatment of prostate cancer in Wales.

It was attended by Warren Gatland and his wife Trudi, Eddie Butler (who compered the raffle) and Jayne James (the former BBC Wales broadcaster) and her husband Rob.

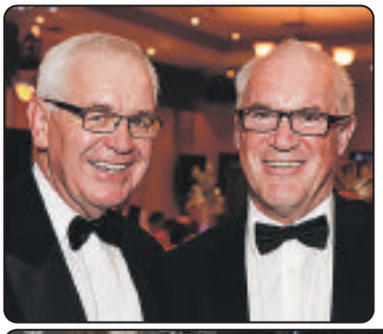
David Brace told The GEM: "We had a fantastic demand for the event, with 240 buying tickets. We could have sold the event twice over, and will aim to do so next year!"

The evening started at 7.30pm and included an auction, raffle and music provided by local band 'Souled Out'.

In total of £40,000 was made during the auction and donations.

There were some extremely generous donations and bids made, and auctioned lots included a luxury holiday in Marbella, a VIP day's racing at Chepstow and a box at the next Wales v England match, among others.

David Brace added: "We are already taking bookings for next year's President's Ball, and anyone interested should contact me or my wife Dawn on 01656 742313".



MP meets Vale youth mayor and the cabinet

From left to right: Emily Peters, Ellis Rosser, Tom Chandler, Stephen Doughty MP, Alun Cairns MP, Emme Srinivas, Candy Srinivas, Niclas Want.

VALE MP Alun Cairns met the new Vale Youth Mayor Tom Chandler and his cabinet during a trip to Westminster recently.

The Vale youth cabinet visited Mr Cairns at the House of Commons for a tour of the parliamentary estate, and held a question and answer session with the group.

Mr Cairns said: "Having both been elected with 3,000 votes, Tom and Emily are an impressive example of how to get youngsters interested in politics. It was a real privilege to host the cabinet and show them the inner workings of Parliament."

WHAT'S ON - In brief

Holiday bookings

VALE of Glamorgan Association of National Trust is reminding members and volunteers that bookings for the May 2015 holiday need to be in by November 10. Christmas lunch booking forms are also now due. The next talk on Wednesday, November 19 is by Dr Jonathan Hicks – 'Barry and The Great War' – 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington.

There will be an afternoon talk at Dyffryn about the Hidcote/Dyffryn connection at 2pm on Wednesday, December 3. New members welcome.

Anti-war production

***OH What a Lovely War* is Everyman Theatre's new production at Chapter Arts Centre from November 11 – 15.**

Director Jackie Hurley said: "Unfortunately, we don't seem to have learnt much in the 100 years that have passed since the outbreak of World War One. War, and the destruction it brings, are still very much with us in the 21st century."

Curtain Up is at 7.30pm (matinee Saturday, November 15, 2.30pm).

Call 02920 304400 or visit www.chapter.org for tickets.

World Games, Los Angeles is dream for local athletes

Welsh competitors are seeking help to be able to attend the World Games in Los Angeles.

SPECIAL Olympics Great Britain has just announced that Wales has seven athletes and two coaches selected to be part of the Special Olympics GB Team to attend the World Games in Los Angeles 2015.

They include James Savory from Barry, Adrian Abbott from Llantwit, and coach Angela Frayling from Sully.

Chairman Jeff Savory of Special Olympics Wales said: "We have a big task ahead to help fund these athletes and coaches to attend this prestigious event, each athlete will have to find £2,500.

"If there is anyone interested in sponsoring or arranging a fundraising event on our behalf, please contact us."

Jeff can be contacted on 0780 316 5581; and by email at the following address: *jeff@specialolympicswales.co.uk*.

Online donations can be made at Just Giving / Jeff Savory, by text writing: text JUVL91 £? To 70070."

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Finance options available to suit specific needs.

FENSA Yale

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

Edward Miles

Ted Miles, born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1896, was a cousin of David Miles, his mother being a sister of David Miles senior.

His mother died young and Ted, after some years living in a children's home, lived with his uncle, David Miles and his family in Dinas Powys changing his name from Brown to Miles. He worked as a chauffer for a Dr Costello in Dinas Powys before enlisting in Carmarthen.

He was sent to France in December 1914 and served in Flanders. No information is available of his service in France until 1917.

The 3rd Battle of Ypres officially ended on November 10, 1917, after the capture of Passchendale ridge, but the Ypres Salient continued to be hazardous and Edward Miles died of wounds on December 31, 1917, at one of three casualty clearing stations at Dozinghem. His grave is at Dozinghem Military cemetery.

Aubrey Lloyd Morgan

Aubrey was born early in 1894 in Cowbridge. He was the oldest of two sons and two daughters of Thomas Morgan, a master mariner from Llandaff, Cardiff and his wife Emily Ann from Llandovery. At the time of the 1901 census they lived at the Bridge, 5 High Street, and in 1911 at Glanthaw House, 1 High Street, Cowbridge.

By 1915 the family was living at Cusop at the junction of Love Lane and Broadway, having previously also lived at Greenfield.

Aubrey was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment Cowbridge with Owen Evans. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour of October 23, 1914.

The regiment trained in England until May 1915 and landed in Boulogne on June 1, 1915, going into action on September 30, north east of Loos. After initial success the Battle of Loos had resulted in small gains of territory but continued with heavy casualties.

Aubrey was one of those casualties and was killed in action on October 21, 1915, aged 21. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Richard Thomas Morgan

Richard, born in Penarth in September 1886, was the son of a railway signalman, also named Richard, from Llysworney, and his wife Mary from Llancadle.

By 1888 the family had moved to Cowbridge and in 1901 the parents, with seven children including Richard, were living at 10 Eastgate. The younger Richard was working as a railway clerk.

By 1911 he had left home and was still working on the railways and lodging in Barry. Later that year he emigrated to Australia.

On January 6, 1916, Richard enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland. His trade was noted as mechanic. Six months later he sailed for England, via Cape Town – where Richard overstayed his shore leave by six hours, which cost him a day's pay!

The ship reached Plymouth at the end of July, and he then spent four months training in England. Hopefully, he was able to be reunited with his family and friends in Cowbridge before he went to France in November 1916.

Throughout 1916, preparatory action had taken place south of Ypres in undermining the Messines and Wystschaete ridges where 21 long mining galleries were driven from the British lines towards the ridges, ending in chambers which were filled with a million tons of highly explosive ammonal.

At 3.10am on June 7, 1917, 19 mines were detonated followed by intensive artillery bombardments. Richard was involved in a second wave attack and the ridges were captured,

He died on June 12, 1917, from wounds he received in the action. His grave is in the Trois Arbres cemetery east of Bailleul.

Harold Otto William Moynan

Harold was the younger of the two sons of Dr Richard Moynan and his wife Emma and was born in Newport Mon in 1886.

Dr Moynan was the medical officer of health for the borough of Cowbridge and at some date between 1901 and 1911 moved from Llwyncelyn in Eastgate to Woodstock House in the High Street.

Harold and older brother Richard enlisted before October 1914. Harold joined the South Wales Borderers (Brecknockshire) territorial battalion, although it is unlikely he was serving with this battalion at the time of his death as the Brecknockshires spent almost the entire wartime years in India.

Harold was killed in action on July 31, 1917, aged 30, on the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, an offensive which would grind on for a further three months.

He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

William David Owen

William is something of a mystery. Little has been discovered about him, especially any link with Cowbridge.

He was in the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and on October 17, 1917, the London Gazette announced his promotion from Cadet to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Regiment. He appears to have held a temporary commission in the 38th (Welsh) Division. 114th Brigade.

The book *Carmarthen Pals: A History of 15th Battalion the Welsh Regiment* records the battalion in action in the vicinity of the Premont to Esnes Road, in northern France close to the Belgian border on October 9, 1918, and William died of his wounds on October 11, 1918.

Mysteriously, his grave is in the communal cemetery of St Germain-au-mont-d'or, a village about eight miles north of Lyon, some 370 miles away. The inscription on his grave records him as being a member of the 15th battalion Welsh Regiment, but does not include his army number.

His army record has his widow's address in Southsea, Hants. An Ivy Keturah Hutchings lived at that address with her parents in 1911 and a marriage is recorded in Portsmouth in 1917 of a William David Owen and an Ivy K Hutchings. Unfortunately, there is no access to information which might help trace his origins.

His name appears on the Pontypridd memorial as well as that of Cowbridge; the criteria for inclusion suggests he must have had some connection with that area.

Alexander Pate(s)

Alexander was born in 1887 in Aberdeen, the son of an Irish father, George Holden Pate. He was either the second or third of 12 children, as he was one of twins.

By 1891 he was living with father George and three elder brothers in Alphington near Tiverton in Devon. George married Emily Gitsham, who was some 30 years younger, in 1889 and the family moved to Cardiff around 1894/5.

Alexander was in the Welsh Regiment, and at the time of the 1911 census was stationed in the Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, Egypt. At the same time his twin brother, Archibald, was in the Royal Navy and was on board ship in China and the East Indies.

Alexander joined the Post Office as a postman in May 1913 in Cardiff. He appears to have been attached to the Barry office and an entry in the South Wales Echo on December 1, 1914, indicates he was a postman at Cowbridge.

Alexander, a bandsman as well as a soldier, was probably called up as a reservist and entered France on military service on August 27, 1914.

In late October the British Expeditionary Force was forced into desperate defence against the Germans near Ypres. They suffered heavy losses when attacked on October 23, when Alexander was wounded, and he died of his wounds on October 26, 1914, aged 27 – just three days after his name was published in the Glamorgan Gazette Roll of Honour on October 23. His grave is located in Poperinghe old cemetery which is 10.5 km west of Ypres.

In addition to the Cowbridge memorial, Alexander's name appears on the Barry PO memorial, the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour, the Grangetown (Cardiff) memorial, the Grangetown Roll of Honour and the Scottish National War memorial.

James William Payne (recorded as Joshua Payne on the memorial)

James, the eldest son, of seven sons and one daughter, of William James and Francis May Payne, was born in 1893 in South Shields, County Durham, where father James was a housebuilder.

In the 1911 census James, only 18 years old at the time, is described as a 'pupil/teacher' at Cowbridge Grammar School. He, like Ronald Wall who died in 1915, had been an assistant master at Cowbridge Grammar School.

James enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, which was a territorial battalion, and which was mobilized on August 4, 1914, at Bishop Aukland as part of the 50th (Northumberland) Division 151st Brigade. They landed at Boulogne in April 1915 and suffered very heavy casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

50th Division was involved in the 1st Battle of the Scarpe. James was killed in action on April 14, 1917, aged 24, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Arras memorial.

David Robert Spencer.

One of only two men commemorated on the Cowbridge memorial, who did not wear an army uniform. David was born in 1883 in Cowbridge, the youngest of three sons of Thomas and Margaret Spencer.

In 1891, Thomas was recorded as a brewer and innkeeper and the family was living at the Duke of Wellington.

Thomas died in 1894 and Margaret took over the running of 'the Duke' with eldest son Arthur and was still there in 1901. David had left home and was living in Neath and was employed in engineering.

David married Laurie Glaister Bradbury in 1912 in Cardiff. Laurie is recorded as living at Lake Road East, Roath Park, Cardiff.

David joined the Merchant Navy and was Second Engineer on the SS Portloe, registered at Cardiff. The year 1917 was the worst of the war for British merchant shipping losses due to enemy submarine attacks, and Portloe was torpedoed, west of Ireland, on April 20, 1917 and David died at sea, aged 39.

In addition to the Cowbridge Memorial, David's name is inscribed on the Tower Hill Memorial in London to the men of the merchant marine and fishing fleets.

John Arthur Stockwood

Arthur Stockwood was born in Cowbridge in 1878. He was the eldest of five sons of John and Rachel Stockwood who in 1891 lived at Woodstock House in Cowbridge High Street.

Father, John Stockwood, was a solicitor and Arthur, after attending the grammar school, also qualified as a solicitor. Arthur married Beatrice Ethel Davies in Carmarthen in late 1905 and in 1910 was living next door to his parents at 81 High Street.

In the 1911 census he is shown as living in Park Street, Bridgend, and was in practice as a solicitor with his uncle S H Stockwood.

Despite his age, mid-thirties, and family responsibilities – Arthur was married and the father of three children – he enlisted in Cardiff, joining the Rifle Brigade, soon after Kitchener's appeal for volunteers.

He was rapidly promoted to corporal then sergeant and had applied for a commission in the Welch Regiment at the time of his death.

By September 1916, Arthur had served in France for 14 months; but his luck was due to run out. On September 3, Arthur's division launched a successful attack and captured the ruined village of Guillemont, which had been one of the strongest fortified villages in the German line and a major British objective since the opening of the Somme offensive.

Arthur was killed in action on that day, aged 48, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Battle of the Somme Memorial at Thiepval.

Thomas Frederick Hastings Torney

Tommy Torney was born early in 1898 and was the only son of Dr. Richard Hastings Torney and his wife Jessie, who in 1901 all lived at Sorrento in Cowbridge High Street. Father Hastings, who would be commissioned as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps early in 1917, was born in Ireland.

According to the Glamorgan Gazette of September 13, 1918, Tommy was commissioned on his 17th birthday and had been in France for two years when he died, which implies that he joined his battalion, aged 18, in September 1916, after it had been transferred from the Somme battlefield to Flanders for rest, refit and reinforcement with fresh drafts from south Wales.

Tommy was killed in action on September 3, 1918 aged 20. His name, like William Archer's is inscribed on the Vis-en- Artois Memorial. The report of his death in the Glamorgan Gazette was on the same page as that of William Burley.

William Trew

Willie was born in early 1895, the eldest of four sons and two daughters of James Trew of St Athan, and his Llanblethian born wife Catherine. In the 1901 census, father James is recorded as an agricultural labourer and the family, including Willie, were living near The Mill in Llanblethian.

By 1911 they were living in Pretoria Cottage, Llanblethian, Willie being employed as a colliery labourer. The family had moved to Westgate, Cowbridge, before Willie's death and had another son serving in France to worry about, whilst a third had been discharged badly wounded.

Willie was living in Cowbridge when he enlisted in Cardiff and joined the Welch Regiment. He probably transferred to the 1st Leicesters during the February 1918 army reorganization and was serving with the machine-gun section when he was killed on July 21, 1918 aged 23. His grave is in the Nine Elms British cemetery near Poperinghe, west of Ypres.

A report in the Glamorgan Gazette August 2, 1918 contains the following "He was in the machine gun section and while engaged in a hot fight was fatally struck. His CO, in a sympathetic letter, speaks of him as a splendid soldier, and states that just before he received his death blow, had accounted for a number of the enemy and silenced one of their machine guns."

Ronald Sinclair Wall

Ronald was born in the second half of 1891 in Hampstead, Middlesex. His second name was registered as Shackell in the birth register, military records have it as Schockell but it is also recorded as St Clair and Sinclair.

The 1901 census shows him at the Llandow school where his grandmother, Emma Wall from Ipswich, Suffolk, was the school mistress. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar school where he was also, for a short period, an assistant master. The 1911 census describes him as a schoolmaster student.

Ronald Wall enlisted in Cardiff so it is somewhat strange that he should have served with the Northumberland Fusiliers 'Tyneside Irish' battalion which mobilized in Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 9, 1914.

After basic training the battalion moved at the end of August 1915 to Salisbury Plain, where Ronald died, aged 23, on October 15, 1915. The cause of his death is unknown but he probably died in the very large (1,200 beds) hutted military hospital at Sutton Veny, near Warminster, Wiltshire. His grave is in St John's churchyard in Sutton Veny.

Herbert Dudley Williams

Herbert was born in Cowbridge towards the end of 1896. He was the only son of John and Morfydd Williams, who also had two daughters.

In 1901, the family of seven was living in 89 Eastgate. Father John Williams also owned the adjoining property, known as London House, where he had a thriving business as a draper, with workshops for tailoring and millinery.

The family was still resident in 89 Eastgate and the business continued in the 1911 census. Herbert was born in Cowbridge and attended the grammar school.

In 1914, at just 18, he enlisted in Bristol joining the 12th Glosters (Bristol) Service battalion. He landed in France towards the end of 1915.

Herbert Williams died of wounds on September 3, 1916, barely 20 years of age. His grave is in Dive-Copse British cemetery about 20kms north of Amiens.

William H Williams

William probably died as a result of his war service on February 4, 1919, and his grave is in Llanblethian churchyard. It's so sad that we know so little of this young man who sacrificed his life.

The birth of a William Henry Williams was registered at Bridgend in 1899, as was the death of a William Williams, aged 19, during the same quarter of the year William is known to have died. (Registration information is only publically available for quarters).

In addition, a William Henry Williams, the only son plus five daughters, of Henry and Emily Williams, Factory Road, Llanblethian, is recorded in the1901 and 1911 census returns, aged two and twelve respectively. The dates of his birth, his death and his burial at Llanblethian Church strongly suggest this is our man.

The service record for William H Williams gives no date information but shows service commencing in the Welsh Regiment with a transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps and his progression to Acting Sergeant.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour in Holy Cross church with no further details and no records were kept by the CWGC of soldiers who had left the army due to their injuries.

William Willment (correctly recorded as Willmott by the CWGC)

William was born in Llantrithyd in 1888. He was the son and eldest child of Fred and Margaret Willmott who still lived in Llantrithyd at the time of the 1891 census.

By 1901, the family had moved to St Hilary and William had gained a younger brother and sister. William married Ethel May Firman Ward in St Saviour's Church in Paddington in late 1909.

In the marriage banns, he gives his residence as St Illtyd's Parish, Llantwit Major. In the 1911 census he is living at The Court, Llantwit Major, and he and his wife have a two-month-old daughter, Eleanor May Firman Willmott. He was working as a haulier.

William joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and was sent to France on January 11, 1915. The British Expeditionary Force, of which his regiment was part, suffered heavy casualties in the action at Aubers ridge during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in May 1915.

William's regiment was involved in an attack at Loos on September 25, 1915, and William was killed in action that day, probably in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. His grave is in St Mary's advanced dressing station cemetery near Haisnes.

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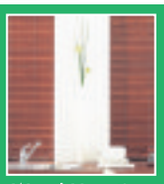
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Family Notices

BENNET
Jeanne

Peacefully, on October 30 at Llandough Hospital, Jeanne, beloved wife of the late William, loved mother to Carolyn and son-in-law Simon, and adored grandmother of Callum, Isla and James.
She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Road, Penarth until the service in the funeral home chapel on Tuesday, November 11 at 12.30pm, afterwards at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

FOLEY
Shirley Jane (née Griffin)

Passed away peacefully on October 29 at Llandough Hospital.
Shirley, of Llantwit Major, was the most beloved wife of John, dearly loved mother of Gail, Paul, and John, and mother-in-law of Phil, Ellen, and Tina. A very special grandmother, great grandmother and friend.
A Requiem Mass will be held at Our Lady and St.Illtyd Roman Catholic Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday, 12th November at 12.30pm followed by a service of cremation at Barry Crematorium.
No flowers but donations to CAFOD (the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) gratefully received by Ms Moira Robinson, Chair, CAFOD Llantwit Major, 14 Eurgan Close, Llantwit Major CF61 1QY or c/o Mr J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

Leon Ashley Payne

Georgina, Emma, Mea and Cath would like to express their sincere gratitude to their relatives and friends who attended the funeral of their much loved Dad. Father to Mea, son to Georgina and brother to Emma.
In loving memory.

CARTER
Gerald

Lost his battle with cancer, died peacefully at home with his family on November 2. Loving husband to Pauline, adored dad to Lynne, Tracey, Karen and Beverley. Loved greatly by his grandchildren, always in our thoughts.
Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 1.15pm.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired to be made to Velindre Fundraising and forwarded to Velindre Cancer Centre, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

MORRIS
Carl Thomas

Suddenly, at home on October 14, Carl, soul-mate of his wife Ann, who he worshipped and adored; devoted and cherished dad of Lauren.
You were our light in the darkness, may you forever guide us, we love you and miss you. xx
Resting at James Summers & Son, Roath Court, Newport Road, Cardiff, until the funeral service on Friday November 14, at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 3pm.
No flowers. Donations may be made to to Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

MARGUS
Michelle

Suddenly on October 20th, at home, Michelle of Barry; a loving mother, grandmother and auntie.
Will be sadly missed by her sister Maria, her faithful companion Tessa (the dog) and many friends.
Funeral Monday, November 10th, service at Merthyr Dyfan Chapel, Barry at 2pm, where friends please meet, followed by interment in the cemetery.
Flowers and inquires to W.H.Preene & Son, Main Road, Cadoxton CF63 2HN.
(Telephone 01446 420520)

WINDSOR
William Charles DFC

He passed away on Sunday, 12th October in Southampton General Hospital. He was a much loved and respected father, grandfather and great grandfather. All our love, Derek, Carolyn, Shelly, Sarah, Charlotte and George.
Memorial service and interment at Porthkerry Church at 12.00 noon on Friday, 7th November. Please send flowers to J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose.

REES
John Beverley

Peacefully on November 1, at Ysbyty George Thomas, Treorchy, after a long illness, Bev of Hensol, formerly of John Rees Agricultural Merchants Ltd., Barry. Beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved father of Tim, James and the late Matthew, dear father-in-law of Heidi, Anna and Sara, and a much loved grandfather.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, November 14, Service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Dementia Research or Epilepsy Research, both c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

ROGERS
Marian
S.M.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. and H.V

Peacefully at the College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on October 28. Beloved wife of the late Eric, loving sister of Gwen, Pat and John; sister-in-law of Jean and Stuart and adored aunt of nieces and nephews.
Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Ty Newydd Road, Barry, until her service at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry at 1pm on November 8. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to The Alzheimers' Society c/o the funeral directors.
The family wishes to thank Kath and her team at College Fields for their kindness and care of Marian.

Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a
PREMISES LICENCE.
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of : Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk. Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:- Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Zahid Rasul/Mrs Saima Rasul
Name and postal address of the premises: 33 Market Street Bridgend CF31 1LJ
Statement of intended licensable activities: (1) From 11.30am till 2.30am plays, films, indoor sporting event, live music, boxing or wrestling entertainment, record music, supply of alcohol, refreshment, performance of dance, rugby or football match. Refreshments 11.30am till 11.00pm 27/11/2014
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This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely Bridgend CBC on 30/10/14 for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000

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JSTKD's newest black belts, from left: Evan Morgan, Joe Lewis, Josh Edwards, Gary Morgan, Ellie Morgan.

Black belt success for JSTKD students

STUDENTS from Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness put on an impressive display at the latest Black Belt grading examinations held at the TAGB (Tae Kwon Do Association of GB) headquarters in Bristol.

Those undertaking the test have the added pressure of knowing that the examination is only held twice each year. The five successful students were Evan Morgan, Josh Edwards, Ellie Morgan and Gary Morgan from the Rhoose club and Joe Lewis from the Dinas Powys club.

Josh, the youngest member of the group at nine years old, began his training via the JSTKD Ninja Kids programme, as did Evan and Joe who joined when they were just four years old.

Ellie began her training as a junior with dad Gary deciding to 'stop watching and start doing' when he took up Tae Kwon Do for himself five years ago.

Everyone displayed great focus and skill throughout the three hour examination which tested not only their ability to perform the 30 intricate movements of the black belt pattern but also step sparring, free sparring, floor work and breaking techniques.

In addition, they had to undertake a theory test to demonstrate their knowledge of the history of the pattern as well as Korean terminology.

The examination is conducted by six examiners, who are all 7th Dan or above, and who can ask students to execute patterns and demonstrate their knowledge of Tae Kwon Do theory from not only the Black Belt level but also from any of the preceding nine colour belts.

They look for students who exude a 'strong will' as well as precision and sharpness in the way their movements are performed.

For Josh, Evan, Joe, Ellie and Gary, passing this very challenging examination is the culmination of many years of training and sees them achieve their ultimate goal of becoming black belt martial artists.

Anyone who would like to start or continue their Tae Kwon Do journey should visit www.jstkd.co.uk for details of venues and classes throughout the Vale starting from three years of age up to adults; beginners are welcome and new classes are planned for the New Year.

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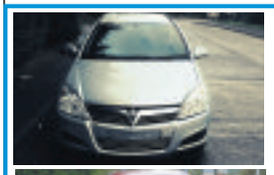

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Cowbridge youth stun the French champions!

Cowbridge RFC and Toulon youth teams.

Some of the team are pictured grabbing a 'selfie' with Steffon Armitage.

ON Friday, October 31, Cowbridge RFC youth travelled to Toulon to play the double European Champions' Academy side, who were top of the French regional championships with five wins from five.

As if that wasn't sufficiently challenging, the enormity of the task facing the boys was confirmed when the Toulon side fielded a pack whose back five averaged a height of 6' 7"!

Nevertheless, the Cowbridge team responded magnificently to the challenge. Led by inspirational captain Dan Holder, the whole squad played with passion, commitment and, more importantly, intelligence, to achieve a quite incredible result.

Despite the size and physicality of the Toulon side, they were unable to cope with the speed and width of the Cowbridge game and three outstanding tries were scored through Zac Summerhayes, Jonny Hunt, and Matt Locke.

Alex Guard added one conversion and tight head prop Sam Richards landed a sublime touchline penalty from the halfway line to complete the scoring, the game ending 20-5.

Well done to the boys, on a superb performance, an unbelievable result and a fabulous weekend.

Squad: Dan Evans, Alex Guard, Adam Dix, Tom Lucas, Josh Brace, James Bennett, Jonny Hunt, Dan Holder, Llwyd Elms, Marc Herbert, Arran Bowman, Matt Locke, Sam Richards, Connor Wyatt, Jon Nexmand, Will Haines, Luke John, Jack Anderson, Ed Couzens, Greg Jerwood, Zac Summerhayes, Tom Evans, Gabriel Shires.

Gareth Petty

PLENTY OF COMPETITION AT LLANDOW KART CLUB

THE penultimate round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship took place at South Wales Karting Centre with drivers in eight classes looking for a late push for silverware in a meeting that featured both longer heats and a free tyre draw.

The Bambinos were back in action, kicking the weekend off with Nathan Browning and McKenzie Douglas both improving their lap times over the course of the day, and gaining certificates and trophies for their efforts.

The combined Cadet classes produced IAME heat victories for Max Fenlon (2) and Connor Kearney before Fenlon came out on top again in the final. Stuart Ferguson followed Fenlon's lead in Honda Cadet, winning two heats and the final, with George Alp-Williams claiming the remaining race.

Shay Keough completed the IAME podium, with Oscar Ferguson ensuring it was a family 1-2 in Honda by pushing Alp-Williams back into third.

There was no sharing of victories in Junior Honda as Celtic champion Kristian Prosser again claimed a clean sweep of all four races. Usual rival Patrick Hill appeared to be having on off-colour weekend as, having taken second on the road in heat one, he suffered a DSQ in race three, while the ever-improving Jack Bligh edged him in the other heat.

Ben Cutler was runner-up in heat two, but it was Bligh back in P2 in the final, with Hill edging Cutler and Alex Wilkins for the final podium spot.

As usual, Junior Max featured the name of Rob Ellis at the top of the timesheets, but only on three out of four races on this occasion as heat two gave a glimpse of things to come with Minimax graduate Ethan Ling claiming first place. Ellis was back on top when it mattered most, however, with David Spiller also getting the better of Ling by the chequered flag.

In Ling's absence, Minimax honours went the way of Riley Phillips, with Jack Fordham – stepping up from the Cadet ranks - and novice Liam Griffiths filling the podium in the final.

Junior TKM provided a 100 per cent hit rate but, for once, it wasn't Ryan Edwards doing the winning. Instead, Alex Rees came through to claim all four victories, leaving Edwards to scrap it out for minor honours in an eight-strong field, eventually settling for three second places, with Tom Rawlings taking the other.

Sam Johns completed the top three in the heats, but it was Clay Pigeon's Lucas Sullivan joining Rees and Edwards on the podium in the main event as Johns posted a DNF and Rawlings failed to start.

Danny Griffiths returned to winning ways in Senior Honda, but was denied a clean sweep when Cristiano Nardone claimed the victory in heat three.

Nardone remained the biggest thorn in Griffiths' side, finishing second on the road in all three remaining races.

In contrast to the majority of classes, Senior Rotax shared the victories around, with Ashley Lewis, Zach Jones and Gareth Taylor each claiming success in the heats.

However, come the final, it was a new name at the top in every sense of the word as, having been a top three finishers early on, Morgan Rose completed his step up from the Junior Max ranks by shocking the regulars and taking top spot. Taylor and Sam Morgan completed the podium.

The random' tyre draw for each class took place during the drivers' briefing and the following club members won a set of tyres supplied by Llandow Kart Shop: Stuart Ferguson (Cadet Honda), Shay Keough (Cadet IAME), Ben Cutler (Junior Honda), Tom Rawlings (Junior TKM), Ceran Sokhi (Junior Rotax), Jack Fordham (MiniMax), Chris Lipscomb (Senior Honda), Sam Morgan (Senior Rotax).

The 10th and final round of the 2014 Llandow club championship takes place on November 16.

RESULTS

CADET HONDA - 1. Stuart Ferguson (Project One), 2. Oscar Ferguson (Project One), 3. George Alp-Williams (Project One). CADET IAME - 1. Max Fenlon (RK/Birel), 2. Connor Kearney (Zip), 3. Shay Keough (Zip). JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Jack Bligh (7Kart). 3. Patrick Hill (Wright).

JUNIOR TKM - 1. Alex Rees (Jade), 2. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart), 3. Lucas Sullivan (TonyKart). JUNIOR ROTAX - 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. David Spiller (Alonso), 3. Ethan Ling (CRG). MINI MAX - 1. Riley Phillips (Kosmic), 2. Jack Fordham (Kosmic), 3. Liam Griffiths (Energy).

SENIOR HONDA - 1. Danny Griffiths (MS), 2. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart), 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart). SENIOR ROTAX - 1. Morgan Rose, 2. Gareth Taylor (CRG), 3. Sam Morgan (CRG). Best novice:Liam Griffiths (Minimax), driver of the day: Connor Kearney (Cadet IAME).

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

Wales RL take the positives from loss

IRELAND won the final game of the 2014 European Championship, beating Wales 46-14 in Wrexham on Sunday, but it wasn't by the 41-point margin they needed to claim the trophy, 2016 Four Nations and 2017 World Cup qualification.

The young Wales side leave this year's European Championship tournament with no wins on the board, but a lot of positives, the primary one being that a number of Welsh-born players have stepped up to the mark where others were unavailable and have produced some good individual performances.

They'll be competing for places in Wales sides in future years alongside the Super League stars that didn't put their hands up to play on this occasion.

Ireland took the lead on four minutes. A fine run from Ben Johnston set up the try and despite a good tackle from Lewis Reece initially stopping the charge, Will Hope forced his way over from the next play. Liam Finn converted.

The visitors' second came eight minutes later when Brad Hargreaves went over in the corner after a good passing move. Finn missed the kick.

Finn put Luke Ambler through a gap to score Ireland's third on 18 minutes, then Finn duly goaled to put Ireland 16-0 up.

Another strong Irish set resulted in Hargreaves going over for their fourth try of the day on 32 minutes. Finn converted well and the Irish were 22-0 up and halfway to the points they needed to clinch the trophy, and Finn went over for a deserved try two minutes before the break, converting himself, to put the Irish 28-0 up at the break.

Wales opened the second half well and in their first real dangerous attack of the game, Rhys Williams went over in the corner and Lewis Reece converted.

But the Irish hit back straight away as Hargreaves waltzed over for his hat-trick. Finn goaled to give them their 28-point margin back.

Matty Fozard thought he'd given Ireland more of a mountain to climb on 57 minutes as he grounded well but the pass leading to the touchdown was forward - but Wales weren't to be denied.

An excellent run from Reece created a try on the wing for Dalton Grant, much to the delight of the coachload of fans his father had brought up from south Wales. Reece missed the kick.

Ireland were certainly battling to get those points on the board. Former Scorpions favourite Haydn Peacock was next over the line with Finn converting to make it 40-10.

Poor Welsh marking gave Ireland their eighth try. It was a good length of the field move to give them the position but Casey Dunne was given far too much space to walk it in. Finn converted and Ireland were just five points away from the Four Nations.

But Wales denied Ireland right just before final hooter. Ireland were attacking well and looking for the points that they needed, but Tom Hughes picked up a stray pass on his own goal-line and ran 100 metres for a well-deserved try; Emanuelli missed the kick.

IG

NETBALL SQUADS ARE ANNOUNCED

AT the Cardiff & Vale LA Netball Hub trials over 120 girls attended the under-11 trials, a further 120 at under-13 level and over 70 at under-15 - the selectors knew it was going to be a tough selection process.

The standard of play was high and amazing to see how many talented netballers are in the region, especially coming from the primary schools all over the region.

With this said the main LA Hub squads were selected and a development squad at each age group was selected underneath the main squads for further development.

The successful players to represent the Cardiff & Vale LA Hub are as follows:

Under-11 - Chloe Berrow, Aimee Seaward, Holly Bennett, Mia Nunes, Hannah Davies, Abigail Morgan, Ellie Davies, Megan Hadfield, Mia Davies, Seren Bailey, Anna Griffiths, Emma Ruelle, Megan Skone, Ella Davies, Rebekah Williams, Chalice Colderley, Aimee Eason, Phoebe Mattinson, Sophie Voisey Smith, Coaches: Melanie Hellerman & Sian Seaward.

Under-13 - Ellie Williams, Beth Edwards, Jessica Gregory, Francesca Coates, Hollie Oakman, Ella Jones, Tia Roach, Helena McCormacy, Mollie Adams, Ella Forsyth, Ophelia Scott, Georgia Hellerman, Sophie Anderton, Poppy Rapley, Macy White, Alissa Colderley, Niamh Sultana, Hannah Williams, Lauren Selman, Bethan Taylor, Olivia Tyson. Nataya Birchall. Coaches: Melanie Hellerman & Lisa Birchall.

Under-15: Caitlin Vincent, Madison Scott, Megan Pembrey, Aimee Towney, Anwen Fardy, Lowri Evans, Bethany Barrell, Muriel Cole, Emily Skinner, Emily Forrest, Caitlin Taylor, Sophie Rees, Angharad Llion, Olivia Heathfield, Annabel Emerson. Coaches: Lisa Birchall & Janet Allen.

The development squad players are as follows:

Under-11 - Leilah Mills, Laura Hawkings, Francesca Inwood, Isabelle Kane Gale, Tia Bullock, Jessica McConkey-Allen.

Under-13 - Imogen Thomas, Ffion Wontnor, Mary Isherwood, Ellie McDonald, Mariella Watt, Maisie Harrhy, Mia Sullivan.

Under-15 - Makayla Bourne, Lauren Taylor, Holly Price, Ceri Williams, Kate Prynne, Emily Roots, Imogen Daw, Sarah Jones, Molly Cameron, Chloe Holehouse, Cathrin Roots, Varnah Williams, Megan Roberts.

Congratulations to all these players. If anyone requires any information regarding netball in Cardiff & Vale, please contact Welsh Netball through Twitter - @cardiff&valendo, @welshnetball, @netballnovember.

CH

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

LDS TAKES THE TITLE

A Local Business Enjoying *National Success*

Lyndon Smith and his hard-working team at LDS Motor Factors, a local business operating from branches in Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and Rhondda, are basking in the success of being crowned the '2014 Member of the Year' by the international GROUPAUTO automotive trading group.

LDS, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary next March, supplies high quality replacement parts and consumables to more than 500 independent repair garages in the surrounding areas, a service that is vital for the reliable running of the vehicles in their local communities.

LDS has been a GROUPAUTO member for the last 10 years, which has coincided with the company's most rapid period of growth. In fact over the last ten months it has opened two of its four branches, the most recent only last month, with the acquisition of Normag Motor Factors in Swansea. "The expansion of the business over the last decade is no coincidence," says Lyndon, "as membership of a powerful trading group brings many benefits to an independent business such as ours.

"It has allowed us to benefit from shared experiences and given us access to a wealth of expertise that has helped us to provide a better service to our customers. As a result, our four branches now employ 58 people and are able to respond quickly to the needs of the businesses we supply, who in turn ensure that high quality parts are used to repair the vehicles of the motorists in their areas.

"Being recognised by the group as a whole and chosen from the more than 300 individual member businesses across the entire UK and crowned the 'Member of the Year' is a great accolade and I'm very proud of every member of staff who has contributed to the business, which has ultimately resulted in LDS receiving this award.

"As a business that operates within the community by supplying predominantly local businesses, we also like to be active in the community and so are a major sponsor of Barry Town FC and boxer, Lee Selby. This local outlook helps us to remain relevant to our area and committed to the community, so personal, friendly service is at the heart of our ethos."

For GROUPAUTO, commercial sales manager, Toby Whewell added: "LDS fully deserve the award of our 'Member of the Year' because they demonstrate all that is good in an independent business working within the structure of a wider group.

"Not only is the business well run and efficient, but Lyndon and his team are willing to get involved and put their all into the various promotions and initiatives that we design centrally to help them in their business. In turn, many of these initiatives then also need to be activated with their customers so that the local garages and ultimately, the motorists that visit them, get to share in the benefits too.

"The fact that LDS embraces all of these elements within the business, which then contributes to making a real difference to the paying public, means they are deserving winners of the '2014 Member of the Year' award."

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Williamstown
Rhondda
CF40 1RA
Phone: 01443 432574

Barry Branch
LDS House
Cardiff Road
Barry
CF63 2BE
Phone: 01446 736010

Vale trainers Tim and Evan are in form

TIM Vaughan's Kalimantan was made an even money favourite for the handicap hurdle at Taunton last Wednesday and, confidently ridden by Michael Byrne, romped home a 15 lengths winner from the second favourite Positive Vibes.

Twenty four hours later at far flung Sedgefield, Tim's Rev It Up, partnered by Alan Johns, landed the long distance handicap hurdle by one and a quarter lengths from Grape Tree Flame, trained by Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen.

At Stratford, Evan Williams' Vinnie Red, a 5-1 chance, was a five lengths winner of the novices' hurdle under stable jockey Paul Moloney.

EVAN'S AYR WINNER

Llancarfan's Evan Williams sent two horses - Sublime Talent and Definite Dream - on a 427 mile trip to Ayr last weekend and won with one of them.

The former, who carried top weight of 11st 12lbs, could only finish fourth behind the bottom weighted Redpender in a field of six runners but the latter, seven-year-old Definite Dream, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the principal race of the day the £7,798 John Smith's No Nonsense Handicap Chase by one and a quarter lengths from Too Cool To Fool. Definite Dream was well fancied and was returned the 7-4 favourite.

Sean Bowen (17), son of Pembrokeshire trainer Peter Bowen, came in for plenty of praise after winning the Byrne Group Handicap Chase at Ascot last Saturday on the Paul Nicholls trained Ulck Du Lin.

BRIAN LEE

Inter are defeated

BARRY Inter took on Rhiwbina and were on the wrong end of a 4-2 scoreline.

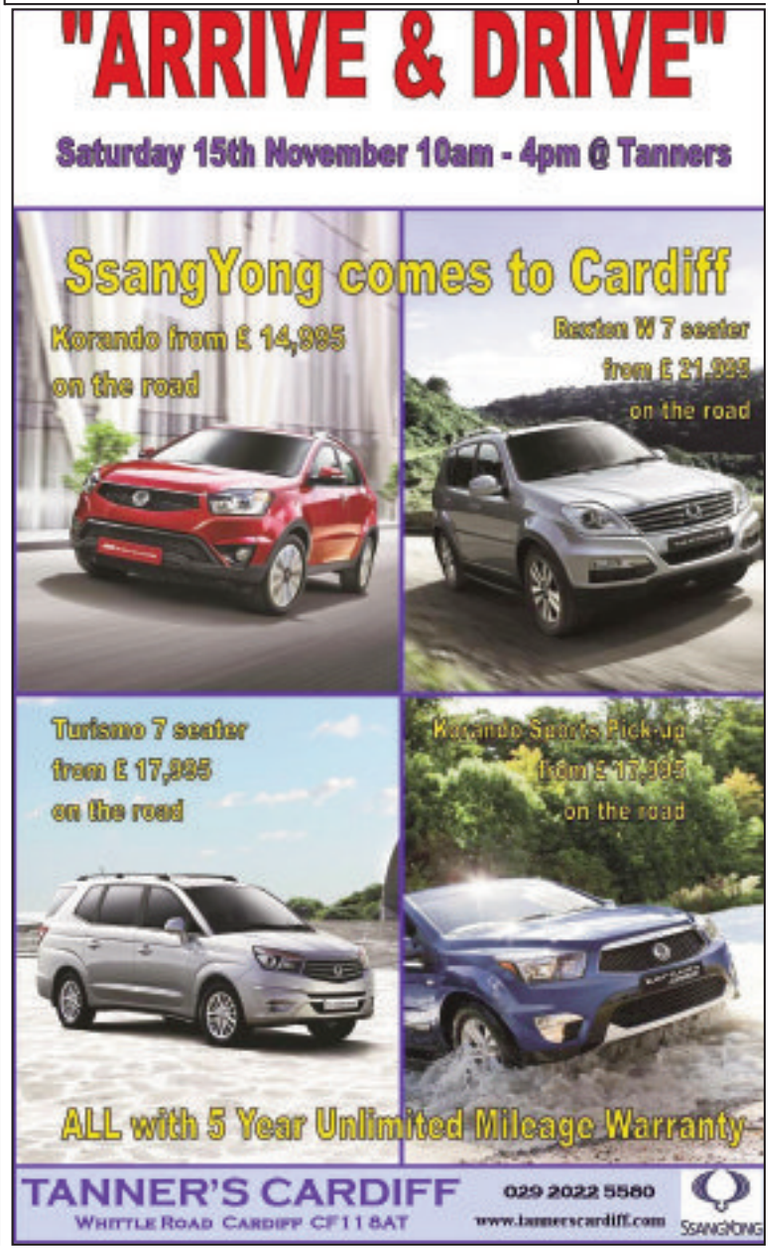
The first half was pulsating and we were at them constantly, being rewarded from a corner that fell to Lloyd who dispatched the ball well. Jacob supplied a good cross that lead to a lovely finish.

We found that this was a hard side to break down, and Rhiwbina soon equalised. We tried to do the right things, playing out from Connor to Aron and then on to Mason or James who would distribute to Eski. Josh and Charlie defended well and Sion put a full shift in. Iestyn made sure the hard work was done and helped the game flow. Jack was assured on the ball and is growing in confidence every game.

The second half saw Rhiwbina go 3-1 up. We then came back at them through a wide inswinging pass which James got on the end of. A grand finale was on, but with five minutes to go, and with Inter pushing for the equaliser, they rifled in to effectively finish the game off.

Team: Connor, Sion, Aron, Josh, Charlie, Eski, Iestyn, Lloyd, Mason, Jack, James, Jacob.

DD



Student's grading success!

RECENTLY the Cadoxton and West End Schools of Tae Kwon Do held their third colour belt grading of the year.

The grading took place at the Victoria Park Community Centre, where 20 students from both clubs were put through their paces by Master Ron Thomas 8th Dan.

The exam consisted of all aspects of this Korean Martial art, patterns, set sparring, floor work, Focus and power, finishing with theory test.

The grading was a success with all 20 students passing their grading 4 of which achieved top grade "A" passes - they were Lucia Cunningham, Charlie Rogers, with Cameron Evans and Rhys Perrett the deserved winners of the club's grading shields.

Successful candidates were: Promoted to 9th kup Orange belt: Deagan Stockford, Ella Bedford, Maci Connell, Riley Rees, Bailey Rees, Danielle Perrett, John Campbell, Tristan Smith.

Promoted to 8th Kup Yellow belt: Charlie-Jade Rogers, Emily Miles, Kiera Watson-Wood. Promoted to 6th Kup Green belt: Courtney James, Leo Cummins. Promoted to 5th Kup Blue stripe: Ethan Andrus, Cameron Evans.

Promoted to 4th Kup Blue belt: Lucia Cunningham. Promoted to 3rd Kup Red stripe: Martin James, Jessica Blackley. Promoted to 1st Kup: Joel Wells.

Pictured above, with their instructors and grading examiners, are the successful candidates.

For further information phone (01446) 406372 or see www.cadoxtontaekwondo.weebly.com.

RT

CHESS PLAYERS VIE FOR TROPHY!

THE Alec Wood Trophy is awarded annually to the player whose rating has improved the most between July 1 and May 31.

At this early stage of the season Barry currently have three players in the top 40. The award normally goes to a junor player because their ratings increase rapidly from a low starting point with individual coaching and also from the number of rated games they play.

It is particularly pleasing that at the moment Matthew Parry is in third place, being the highest placed adult with an increase in his rating of 126 points.

This week also saw wins for three of our teams - the Camelots and the Gambits both bouncin back to the top of their respective divisions.

The Camelots in division 1 defeated the Aberdare Wasps by the maximum 5-0. This returned them to the summit of the division and gives them a lead of 4.5 points over the Cardiff Castles.

So far the Camelots have won five of their six games only losing to our own Bosons side. Their fixture against the Castles in December is looking immense.

In the 3rd division the Quarks defeated the Cardidd Crowns 3-2. The Quarks have won four of their five games to date by the narrow margin of 3-2.

They remain in seventh position, 2.5 points above Pentyrch who are in the relegation zone. They are also only 3.5 points below the Caerphilly Knights who are in the last promotion spot, but the Quarks have a game in hand.

The star performer so far for the Quarks is Chris Green - he has only been available for three matches but has won them all.

In division 4 the Gambits earned their third victory of the season at St Johns' College against the Leptons. This division is somewhat disjointed due to the late entry of the Leptons and the North Cardiff Titans.

The Quarks lead the table by 1.5 points after having played six matches but there remain some teams who have so far played only three matches so until they all catch up we do not know how far down the division we will fall.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com. **PHIL JONES**

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

Here are the results for week commencing October 13:

First Division: Allsorts (A Dawes 32) 295, Family Affair (Davies 31) 289; Coppers (J Williams 36) 337, Pila Palas (L Williams 32) 318; SV Gals (J Richards 27) 256, Castaways (M Winder 36) 267; Special Angels (T Scully 26) 261, Barry Stars (W Phillips 32) 249; Colcot LDS (S Howcroft 27) 248, Family & Friends (R White, G Brown 28) 275; Red Admiral (S Hayes 27) 225, Bakers Dozen (Anne Haines 28) 249; Space Finders (A Norman 34) 329, Cigar LDS (N Lawrence 35) 351.

Second Division: Strikers (G Giles 22) 211, Witchill Weebies (S Edwards, S Robinson 22) 200; Roller Coasters (N Burgess 25) 202, SV Lights (C Ames 25) 219; Witchill Widows (A Doel Davies, L Young, M McKinney, M Curry 30) 323, After Eights (P Bryant 33) 316; Clickies (K Mergas, M Williams 28) 296, Divas (C Jenkins 28) 272; Vixens (C Wilson, L Gray 27) 269, Rhoose Starlights (J Ocknell 29) 277; Bobby's Girls (P Soloman 29) 271, Breakaways (C Parfitt 31) 287; Castle Bandits (D Collard 29) 267, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements, S Chilcott 25) 241.

Third Division: Rhoose Ravers (J Arnott 30) 235, Persuaders (S Dixon 29) 271; Jolly Dollies (K Partridge 22) 206, Dolly Mixtures (T Rowsell 28) 170; Airways Angels (L Thomas 27) 231, Hill Billies (G Moorcroft, S Aspinal 26) 209; Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 310 259, Westenders (B Goddard 33) 325; Rugby Triers (M Wilson 28) 254, Friends & Neighbours (E Western 25) 218; S V LDS (S Barry 29) 303, Merry Makers (M Payne 29) 290; Lil's Devils (L Bowsher 26) 240, Etcetera (C Mackintosh 26) 219.

Fourth Division: Odd Bods (V Avient 24) 192, Fallen Angels (T Lawrence 27) 243; Twilights (S Ellis 24) 195, BFFs (M Pring 27) 210; Rebels (S Williams 24) 211, Off The Rails (J Tutssel, T Sims, L McCormack 22) 220; Challengers (L Morgan 26) 256, Boozy Birds (S Rudeforth 28) 232; Wyndham Witches (V Walters 29) 251, Labelles (C Knight, R Clogg, E Cordy, J Williams 27) 272.

Fifth Division: Barry Ravers (L Hodder 26) 171, Socialites (S Marks 25) 217; Smurfs (K Mason 27) 218, Optimist (E Playle 32) 185; Park Belles (R Ham 28) 239, Aristocats (Mave Rogers 27) 209.

The Barry & District men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B' (R.Bishop, N.Stephenson 30) 276, Ex-Servicemen (S.Smith 23) 244; Blue Monkey (R.Fox 27) 257, The Hairy Lemons (J.Silvey, D.Phillips 27) 287; Geest (T.Zahra 30) 286, Colcot Boys (B.Sullivan 28) 265; Mighty Dockers (P.Burroughes 26) 236, Ex-Servicemen (D.Stevens 26) 261; Park Lads (G.Jones 29) 244, 49'ers (A.Wall, D.Whittaker 26) 280; Park Rangers (D.Sage 27) 282, Blue Monkey (R.Fox 30) 277; West End Stars (A.Baker 26) 257, Bunker Boys (B.Hewitson 32) 289.

Division 2: Buffs Exiles (B.Poyyer, T.Griffiths 26) 259, Abercrete (T.Card, M.Watts 26) 237; Exiles (T.Williams 29) 284, Sea View (D.Britton 30) 280; Posties (T.Gray 29) 280, Barry Social (T.Richards 27) 255; The Royalists (G.Evans 30) 268, Road Runners (B.Smith 29) 280; Tynewydd Lads (A.Wright 31) 288, Willie Wombles (P.Taylor 31) 282; Tynny Fliers (J.Thomas 26) 257, Buffs Exiles I.Dowdell, B.Saunders 29) 291; Witchill Poachers (R.Connell 34) 341, Tynewydd Lads (S.Germon 37) 257.

Division 3: Billy Whizz (A.O'Brien 30) 275, Castle Boys (Eveleigh 30) 250; British Rail (T.Williams 27) 267, C.U.D. (C.Perkins.G.Sheppard 27) 254; Cannon Balls (T.O'Sullivan 30) 303, The Alternatives (D.Brdrick 37) 299; 'H'Bells (K.Lewis 30) 232, West End Fliers (R.Morgan, M.James 31) 279; The Alternatives (J.Davies, A.Harris 25) 260, British Rail (K.Brown 30) 282; The Rejects (P.Edgar 36) 299, Commanchies'2' (C.Reed 29) 254; West End Fliers (M.Nway 27) 225, Cannon Balls (T.Sparks 25) 253.

LR

Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies' section

ON October 7, an 18 hole stableford was played – first, Ann Mahenthiralingam 40 pts; second, Sue Bridle 35pts; third, Maxine Hird 34pts. Nine hole stableford – first, Angela Thomas; second, Terry Unwin.

On October 21, captains vs secretaries held a nine hole competition in a matchplay format with just three clubs being used - a wood, an iron and a putter usually known as a whip. In a close match the secretaries were the overall winners, winning 5 and 1/2 pts to 4 and 1/2 pts; all the ladies on the secretaries' team were presented with a prize.

On October 28, a nine hole Turkey Trot was held – first, Sue Bridle 46-9.5=36.5 nett; second, Audrey Harwood 51-12=39 nett, on back 6 from Ann Mahenthiralingam 45-6=39nett.

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Holly's Celtic Manor triumph

Holly with coach John Hastings

For 17-year-old Cowbridge student Holly Pitcock, October 2014 will be a month she will never forget.

Firstly she was elected junior captain at her club, St Andrew's Major, and then finished runner-up at the club's recent awards evening for the most improved junior golfer of 2014.

To round off her eventful month, Holly captured the Shelter Cymru Mini-Masters Open at the Celtic Manor Resort, winning by a margin of nine shots.

To reach the final she had to come through two qualifying rounds which were held at Caerphilly and Builth Wells.

She has attributed her success to the excellent junior coaching programme at her home club and the help she's had from her coach, John Hastings: "Without John's help I'm sure I wouldn't have won this final," she commented.

Holly would like to thank Shelter Cymru for giving her the chance to play at different venues, with the highlight being the grand final held at the Ryder Cup venue; everyone who took part in the Mini-Masters collectively raised £7,000 for Shelter Cymru.

JH

The Barry Leisure Centre hosts sports sessions for disabled

THIS half term, disabled children from the Vale took part in sporting activities at Barry Leisure Centre which included water polo, dodgeball and light aerobics.

The morning started off in the pool with lots of fun water-based activities. Barry Leisure Centre provided a swimming instructor who helped the group improve their swimming strokes before they transferred these skills into a competitive game of water polo.

The sessions could also help the staff at Barry Leisure Centre spot any potential swimmers who could join their Disability Swimming Academy which is run in partnership with Swim Wales.

The activities provided suited all the participants who ranged from the age of three upwards. They were accompanied in the pool and sports hall by the Vale Council Play Workers, as well as disability sport volunteers.

After the swimming activities had finished, the group moved on to the main hall at Barry Leisure Centre where they took part in a very competitive game of dodgeball, followed by light child friendly aerobics which again were organised by the staff from Barry Leisure Centre.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales development officer for the Vale, commented: "It's brilliant to see people using their local facilities which can provide suitable and enjoyable activities for all.

"The centres have a wide variety of facilities that the public can use and hopefully these half term activities will lead to more groups using the leisure centres throughout the year."

A terrific turn out for table tennis tournament

OVER 100 pupils turned up to take part in the Vale Council's 5x60 table tennis tournament at Bro Morgannwg Comprehensive School.

The tournament saw pupils from across the Vale attend, including students from Stanwell, Cowbridge and St Cyres schools.

There were 16 teams taking part split into three groups, a boys' year 7 and 8 competition, won by Stanwell, a girls' year 7 and 8 competition, won by Cowbridge, and a boys' year 9 and 10 competition, won by Barry Comprehensive.

The winning teams will now advance to the regional competition held by Sport Wales.

5x60 officer, Chris Ferrier, said: "It was a fantastic event, which was well attended and is an excellent way to build the profile of table tennis within the Vale."

5x60 aims to get secondary school pupils more active more often by encouraging them to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week.

The Welsh Government funded initiative is run by Sport Wales and is supported locally by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

FAMOUS RIDERS FROM THE VALE
John Llewellyn

COWBRIDGE farmer John Llewellyn is a legend in point-to-point circles.

He rode 270 winners between the flags, the first of them on *Highland Myth* at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases at Penllyn back in 1967.

The farmhouse where he was born was on the site of the old Cowbridge Steeplechase course, which had seen the likes of the famous Anthony and Rees brothers. Some of John's early successes were gained at the same venue when the Glamorgan, Llangeinor and Pentyrch hunts all held their point-to-points in the 1950s and 1960s before moving to St Hilary.

Although he started race riding at 16, he amazingly didn't ride his first winner until he was 20, which surely tells us something about his determination to succeed. John had a habit of making point-to-pointing history.

In 1982 he became the first Welshman to win the national riders' championship outright, with a then Welsh seasonal record of 19 winners. He won the Welsh riders' championship on a number of occasions and also enjoyed success when riding winners under rules at racecourses such as Cheltenham, Hereford, Sandown Park and Chepstow.

It was on the last named racecourse in front of a big Welsh crowd that he had a memorable win on the late Grenville Richards' *Fixed Price* in the 1986 Land Rover Gentlemen's Championship Hunter Chase, to become the first Welshman to win the race.

John, who farms at Newlands Farm, St Mary Church, Cowbridge, certainly had his share of falls. Four broken collar bones, a broken shoulder blade, hip and leg injuries and not to mention wrist and other 'minor injuries'.

Of the changes in the sport he says: "The standard of riding has improved since my days and most racecourses are better laid out and there is more emphasis put on safety of riders and horses."

During his long and esteemed race riding career, he rode some of the best horses in Wales and these included *Mandryka, Gemmerley Jane, Fitz, Cloud Castle, Proud Prince, Timber Tool, Beau Hawke, Radio Cue* and *Parkhbride*, names that will be music to the ears of most point-to-point enthusiasts.

A credit to the sport in Wales, he was the recipient of a special award for his services to hunt racing in the 1990s.

However, in his native Wales, he has yet to be recognised by the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame; these days he is in demand as a steward at a number of meetings throughout the season.

BRIAN LEE

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for October 28: First, Mick Green and Tim Barsby 61.11 per cent; second, Ann and Sean Macdougall 53.47 per cent; third, Helen Jordan and Judith Owen 52.78 per cent.

Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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Youth team beat Toulon... but firsts struggle against an impressive Llandaff

PRIDE of place this week must go to the Cowbridge youth team away in Toulon.

They had a run out with the senior Toulon team on Friday and then beat the Toulon academy team, with seven international representatives, 5-20 (*See report on page 41*).

Try scorers were Zac Summerhayes, Jonny Hunt and Matt Lock. Sam Richards converted one try and added a penalty in a superb result which will live long in the memory. Congratulations to the squad, coaches and organisers.

Back home, the First XV entertained Llandaff North last Saturday at The Athletic field and played very well in the first half before dropping off in the second to lose 12-36.

Cowbridge shaded it in the opening exchanges with several good runs from centre Kyle Jones before, on 10 minutes, outside half Tom Stirling saw his 50-metre penalty fall just short.

Four minutes later a good run, started by full back Tom Harrison was taken on by scrum half Rob Saunders and then second row Emyr Stone dived over to score a try that Stirling converted.

Great defence then kept Llandaff out, but on 30 minutes the Cowbridge scrum, which had been going well, started to come under pressure. From a five-metre scrum, Llandaff's No 8 picked up and dived over for a converted try and just before halftime, they took the lead with a penalty.

Wing Dai Griffiths, who had bravely tackled the No 8, was shaken up and did not reappear after the break. The half-time score was 7-10.

Josh Lewis was Griffiths' replacement on the wing. Seven minutes in and Llandaff's No 8 got his second try, and minutes later the inside centre also crossed; but Cowbridge responded and after a penalty, Saunders spun a long pass infield.

Centre Huw Lougher moved it out to wing Will Holliday to hand off his man and score in the corner. On 14 minutes, Geraint Thomas came on for hard working flanker Connor Boys. At the midpoint, a last-ditch tackle kept their scrum half off the floor, but from the scrum their No 8 got his third.

Rob Saunders came to the sidelines, Tom Howson replaced him and Dai Breed took over from Jon Phillips.

The final score went to Llandaff's outside-half, Mike Rayer's son, who found a gap on half-way and accelerated away for a cracking score that with the conversion brought the final score to 12-36.

In fairness Llandaff's 8, 9 and 19 were good players. Cowbridge played well in the first half but as possession dried up it became a struggle.

Rob Saunders looked good and there is a lot more to come from him. Rhys Price was lively in the loose and Geraint Thomas carried well when he came on.

It was good to put out a strong team and bench, so there's plenty to work on in training. The next league match is Canton away on December 6 and then, not to be missed, Llantwit Major at home on December 27.

The club will be open for the autumn internationals starting with Australia on Saturday at 2:30pm – come on Wales!

Again, a cordial invitation goes out to past and present players and friends of president Tom Mainwaring. The celebration of Tom's 90th birthday takes place on November 14, 7pm for 7.30pm at the clubhouse – let's fill the clubhouse for a great character.

Finally the club, and the community, will join in the poignant tribute to the fallen on Sunday and Tuesday November 11 as we also remember Captain Thomas Clarke AAC and the other brave men who lost their lives on April 26 - dear Tom, loved and missed by all who know him.

RV /RK

Success for Godfrey the golden oldie!

ABOVE: Winners Bob Glover, Godfrey Lewis and Bryn Owen with sponsor David Harris.

THE recent meeting of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, generously sponsored by local NFU agents David Harris and Julian Kelly, was staged last Thursday on the idyllic Monmouthshire parkland course situated just outside Abergavenny.

Runner-up Ken Jones with sponsor David Harris.

Attracting 34 entries, including a large number of occasional golfers from the lesser-known PIGS (Penllyn International Golf Society), competition was extremely keen for the many quality prizes on offer.

Leading the field at the end of an absorbing afternoon's entertainment was veteran golfer Godfrey Lewis, who returned a very impressive 34-stableford points, followed into the winners' enclosure by another golden oldie, Bryan Owen, who scored 33. Jim Hayes, with 31, finished in third place and Trevor Wooding also with 31, finished in fourth place.

The society was also very pleased to welcome as a guest Mr Ken Jones a member of St Athan Golf Club.

To many in the golfing world Ken is better known as 'Mr organiser extrodinaire' for his amazing enthusiasm in organising the annual St Athan Village Golf trip which for over 30 years has been enjoyed by many Vale golfers.

Ken returned home with the runner up prize in the guest section after scoring 31 points, behind Bob Glover who scored 35 points.

A team competition for competitors was also enjoyed with a scoring system based on one score counting on the first six holes, two on the next six and then all three scores to count on the closing six holes.

Winners of the team competition with 71 points were Clive Edwards, Jim Hayes and Bob Glover with the runner-up team made up of Godfrey Lewis, Griff Morgan and Clive Thomas, who scored 62.

Special prizes of a Christmas pudding for finishing with the lowest score of just 44 points were the Thomas clan - Ray, Lyn and Aubrey.

Nearest the pin on the Llanerch Vineyard Restaurant-sponsored par 3 holes were Neil McLean, Julian Golunski, Ray Howells, Dan Jarvis and Chris Rooney.

Ray Thomas collected the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored longest drive prize after hitting a monster of a drive down the 18th fairway.

The Premier Turf-sponsored lost ball competition was won by Glyn Watts-Jones, who correctly guessed 56 balls would fail to return home.

This raised £93 for the nominated charity 'Mount Pleasant Riding for the Disabled'.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 27, at Newport (Rogerstone) Golf Club and will be sponsored by Herbert R Thomas & Co of Cowbridge.

T.McC

Under-10s come so close in tournament

COWBRIDGE under-10s travelled to Old Bristolians Rugby Club on the weekend to play in the annual Lexus south-west rugby tournament which was played under the English rules rather than the WRU rules.

The tournament was being played after three successive wins against CRICC, Newport High School Old Boys and Llanishen, where the whole squad have shown huge improvements in their play and attitude.

A small tournament squad travelled, although many more would have easily warranted a place.

Cowbridge started slowly in their first group game against their hosts Old Bristolians RFC but began to get to grips with the different RFU rules, where mauling was allowed and eventually lost the game two tries to one.

Next up were Tewkesbury and despite the Cowbridge side being smaller than their opposition, they ran out clear winners by six tries to nil.

Jake Williams and Rhoddri Phillips quickly mastered the mauling technique and Ben Moore and Morgan Harris drove Tewkesbury off the ball on a number of occasions to turn over possession and create good ball for their team mates. Out wide there was decisive running from Efan Davies and Caleb Lewis.

Cowbridge carried this high standard of play into their next group game against Plymstock, dominating the opposition in all facets off play and won seven tries to nil. Owen John was proving very hard to tackle and Rhys Owens, with his powerful bursts up the touchline, caused Tewkesbury a great deal of problems.

Jack Driscoll and Harry Ritson continued their excellent early season form into the tournament and tackled tigerishly throughout and also showed great pace to both score tries.

Next up were Winchester in the semi finals. This was a very physical and close contest in wet conditions against a powerful Winchester side who were more familiar with mauling and managed to strip the Cowbridge team of the ball on several occasions.

Cowbridge continued to show massive levels of commitment with Tal Williams to the fore and despite late pressure and a couple of disallowed Cowbridge tries, they narrowly lost the game 2-1 against the eventual tournament winners.

The last game for Cowbridge was the third/fourth play off with the team eager to finish on a high. Griff Watts showed typical Welsh skills throughout the game and Cowbridge completed the tournament with a 3-0 victory.

The coaches were delighted with their teams whole hearted play in what was an excellent tournament.

Thanks also to the whole Cowbridge squads efforts who have performed so well over the season so far and particularly the last month and a number of players who have shown huge improvements in their play this year.

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday October 28, there was a full programme of league matches.

Llanharry Working Men's Club won 7-2 against the Hare and Hounds.

The Highwayman Inn, winning 6-3 against the Old Post Ladies. moved into second slot.

In the other two matches, the Farmer's Arms defeated the Edmondes B 5-4 and the Edmondes A won 5-4 against the Edmondes C.

In the previous week, October 21, Llanharry came from 4-2 down to win 5-4 against the Edmondes B. The Highwayman Inn won 7-2 against the Farmer's Arms, the Hare and Hounds defeated the Edmondes C 5-4 and the Edmondes A won 8-1 against the Old Post Ladies.

Present league standings after six matches, are: Llanharry (43 points), Highwayman Inn (31), Edmondes B and Edmondes A (29), and Hare and Hounds (26), Edmondes C (22), Farmer's Arms (20) and Old Post Ladies (14).

Next week, Tuesday November 11, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes C hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Edmondes B hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes A and the Farmer's Arms hosts Llanharry.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information, contact Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Ping golf team fall just short

SIX golfers from St Athan Golf Club were just one game away from playing in the final of the Ping competition, organised by the Golf Union of Wales.

Entry for this national competition has to be submitted by February and the St Athan team comprised golfers who have been successful in nominated club competitions the year prior; this year's team were Steph Bonnar, Steve Bacon, Carolyn McKenzie, Russ Brookes, Gaynor and Andy Williams.

This is a club knockout event with three mixed pairs of golfers from each club playing a foursomes match play format. 68 clubs entered this year, with Wales split into four regions on a geographical basis; clubs reaching the final eight of the challenge went into an open draw with matches being played on courses selected by the Golf Union of Wales.

The journey was a long and arduous one, which saw the team beat the Glamorganshire, Royal Porthcawl and Neath before playing in the quarter finals at Llandridnod Wells against last year's winners, The Vale of Llangollen.

The team were ecstatic to win all three matches which secured a well deserved place in the semi-final, where they were drawn against a team from Cardigan Golf Club.

Unfortunately, Cardigan proved to have the stronger pairings which saw them into the final against Carmarthen. Although disappointed, the St Athan team took to the course for their second game of the day where they played Cottrell Park to decide on third and fourth team placing.

Determination paid off and the players were delighted to report back to their home club that they had been successful in their last game of the competition.

The members of St Athan Golf Club always welcomes new members - for further information please contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM

Pupils swim to success!

FOLLOWING success at the Vale Schools Swimming Gala in July, Llansannor Primary School consolidated their champion status with a win at the inaugural Cardiff and Vale Schools Swimming Gala at Cardiff International Pool on October 24.

Llansannor entered two squads and both comfortably won their respective first races of front crawl and back stroke, testament to the schools policy of introducing regular swimming lessons for all pupils from year-3.

After lunch, kindly provided for competitors and spectators alike by the sponsors, the afternoon took a fun twist with the 'woggle baton' and body boarding relays. A little less in their comfort zone with these unconventional strokes, Llansannor secured a mixture of second and third places with only the odd woggle or two going awry!

Our Vale neighbours of Llantwit Major and St Brides Major secured joint third place and with Llansannor's first place it was fair to say that the schools of the Vale excelled.

The afternoon concluded with the award ceremony where Seren Bruce from Llansannor won the Best Girl Swimmer of the Day medal.

Squad: Ruben Davies, Edward Hooper, Lowri Parson, William Ryan, Natasha Donnithorne, Seren Bruce, Oliver Jones, Luke Treadwell, Caitlin Humphrey, Luke Jones, Zara Bourne, Osian Bruce and Grace Roberts-Price. **BB**

Glamorgan GEM Sport

YOUR DEFINITIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP

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As Wales launch their latest challenge to the southern hemisphere against Australia, in the first of four autumn clashes, coach is right to warn that a 'big three' scalp now is not the be all and end all

The autumn matches are important but…

'WE MUST NOT TAKE OUR EYE OFF RUGBY WORLD CUP BALL!'

'Tis a lesson you should heed
Try, try, try again
If at first you don't succeed
Try, try, try, again

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THE familiar 19th century school proverb attributed to one Thomas H Palmer has a particular resonance when it comes to Welsh rugby's repeated, and largely unavailing, attempts to finally reverse southern hemisphere dominance.

While this certainly remains true in the case of Kiwis and Springboks, there is yet a nagging belief that Wallabies remain the Wales team's best chance of breaking the big three's bulldog grip, notwithstanding that Australia have won no fewer than 26 of the 37 meetings (with one match drawn) since 1908, and have rattled up 864 points, compared to the Welsh total of 562.

Despite the bleak-seeming statistics, honours were fairly even until the 1987 Rugby World Cup, where Wales edged out the shell-shocked men from Oz (22-21) in the third place play-off at Rotorua; though of the 22 matches played since then, Australia have won 20, with Wales triumphant on two home occasions – Grand Slam years 2005 (24-22) and 2008 (21-18).

In fact, more recently narrow margins have become the norm – a bare handful of points again separating them in the last seven close-fought encounters – with Wales often in command, but agonisingly unable to clinch victory right at the death.

In the 2011 Rugby World Cup, Australia avenged the 1987 defeat with a 21-18 win in the third place play-off at Eden Park, New Zealand; followed by a 24-18 autumn victory in Cardiff. Then came their nail-biting three-Test summer triumphs Down Under (27-19; 25-23; 20-19), before again squeaking home (14-12) at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium that autumn.

Finally, they added to mounting Welsh frustration in last year's autumn international at the Millennium Stadium by ruthlessly snatching a 30-26 victory from the home team's grasp, literally in the dying seconds of a match that, in truth, Australia had never looked like winning.

Little wonder then that as the Australians descend on the Welsh capital city for this Saturday's last encounter before the teams meet again in Pool A at next year's Rugby World Cup in Twickenham, Wales head coach Warren Gatland has clearly primed his troops for a sustained effort to overcome what has been a persistent failing, with the RWC tournament firmly in mind.

"*We are definitely good enough to beat Australia,*" he insists. "*It's just having the experience and nous to close those games out, especially when we are in the lead. What we are doing (in the four autumn internationals) is running through a lot of those scenarios to make sure we are fully prepared…*"

Welsh players are pictured training this week on the new £3.1million pitch at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, which has replaced the notoriously unstable former surface.

Nevertheless, the candid Kiwi has also been at pains to stress that while the upcoming autumn games against Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Fiji (another Pool A opponent) are, of course, very important – as is the Six Nations in the new year – "*I don't see any point in winning every game and not qualifying from our RWC group. For us that is paramount…*

"The players have been told to treat the World Cup like the Olympics… Our whole focus is on making sure that we qualify and get out of our pool," he avers.

This, of course, is unarguable and one can understand it is a difficult balancing act, but there is still almost a year to go to the tournament – and as England (who are also in Pool A) proved in RWC 2003 – a successful pre-Cup run against major rivals gives the squad a priceless psychological lift, as well as nurturing a vital winning mindset for the testing, and infinitely more important, campaign that lies ahead.

By the same token, a string of dismal, pre-tournament setbacks would hardly be conducive to raising the team's (and also the fans') morale – in the run-in to RWC 2015.

Thus, despite Gatland's cautionary words, there can be no doubting the Welsh camp's serious intent, not just regarding the four autumn tests – "*we want to win every one*" – but also the subsequent Six Nations.

After near civil war that almost split Welsh rugby asunder finally settled into an uneasy truce (much ultimately depends on how well erstwhile adversaries – newly-elected WRU board chairman Gareth Davies, a leading figure in the four professional Regions, and group chief executive Roger Lewis – work together, the coaches warn against drawing any comfort from Australia's own off-field troubles and strife.

If anything, the shock resignation by Oz chief coach Ewen McKenzie and his late-hour replacement by Michael Cheika would make the tourists "*more dangerous*", points out Wales' assistant coach Robert Howley:

"*Sometimes events off the field do not reflect what happens on it. The Australian team will come out knowing that we are in the same World Cup group in less than a year's time and will want to put a marker down. They have a knack of being clinical, and have a great skill set. It will be no different on Saturday.*

"They play fantastic rugby and probably should have beaten New Zealand in their last test. They came up short in the last 90 seconds (losing by one point). We've been there – we've got the t-shirt!"

The seemingly light-hearted aside reveals the Welsh camp's true order of priorities and focus of attention on their continuing Achilles heel in these autumn tests against the three leading teams in the world, with RWC 2015 very much in the coaches' mind.

While it goes without saying that Welsh players, like all others, want to win every match they play – as Alun-Wyn Jones reiterated earlier this week – the understandably obsessive media interest in a southern hemisphere 'scalp' *per se*, is a pressure Gatland & Co could surely do without. The whole emphasis, in fact, is on..."*being totally clinical and composed when it matters most, particularly in the final moments of a game – the key ingredients for us over the next four weeks.*

No more excuses...Gatland and his fellow coaches check out the new hybrid surface.
Pictures on this page by Huw Evans Agency.

"That's the biggest area we need to improve on, especially against southern hemisphere sides," Howley affirms.

The giant strides made since Gatland took over the helm in 2008 have turned Wales into a genuinely competitive force to be reckoned with on the world scene, but closing out tight games has all too often proved beyond a still young squad that has yet to acquire the ruthless self-confidence that marks out the southern hemisphere giants from the rest.

This weekend, the Welsh camp will hope that the team announced on Tuesday will start to prove that this vital piece of the jigsaw is at last in place.

One thing we can be quite sure of, they will not be heeding the inimitable WC Fields' own take on that familiar proverb quoted earlier…*"If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again – then give up..!"*

WALES team v Australia

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon), Alex Cuthbert (Cardiff Blues), George North (Northampton Saints), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Paul James (Bath), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (unattached), Sam Warburton (c), Taulupe Faletau (Newport Gwent Dragons).

Replacements: **Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Cardiff Blues), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Bradley Davies (London Wasps), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Cory Allen (Cardiff Blues).**